

Iraq reports fighting in south

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said its helicopter gunships attacked Iranian positions on the southern Gulf war front on Friday while an Iranian amphibious assault through marshlands in the area was driven back. Baghdad's daily war communique said Iranian troops advancing in boats towards Iraqi positions in the East Tigris sector were driven back by heavy Iraqi fire. Eight boats were destroyed and their occupants killed, it said. Helicopter gunships meanwhile attacked Iranian positions in the same area and east of the southern Iraqi port of Basra, destroying emplacements and equipment including a tank, the communique said. All the helicopters returned safely to base, it added. It also reported artillery exchanges in other sectors of the war front. The helicopter raids were the first air activity reported in the daily war communiqués for two weeks.

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Rifai reiterates backing for industries

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai on Friday voiced the government's keen interest in supporting and encouraging the industrial sector. In a message sent to the chairman of the committee organising the Jordanian Industries Festival, Mr. Rifai said the cabinet's decisions in this regard were in line with the directives of His Majesty King Hussein. The prime minister's message came in reply to one sent by the chairman of the committee expressing gratitude to Mr. Rifai, thanking him on the government's decisions to support and protect local industries.

Hot weather to continue today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is influenced by another thermal depression affecting mostly the Jordan Valley and Aqaba and it will last for another 24 hours with a slight drop in temperature as of Saturday. Meteorology Department Director Ali Abanda said Friday, Dr. Abanda told the Jordan Times that the temperature expected on Saturday in the hilly areas ranges from 39 to 40 degrees Centigrade while the desert regions are expected to register a maximum of 42 degrees Centigrade. The Gulf of Aqaba will register 44 degrees Centigrade, Dr. Abanda said. The current thermal depression, which is centred in the Arabian Peninsula, affected mostly the southern part of the Kingdom and the Jordan Valley, Dr. Abanda said.

Thousands pray for Bhutto's son

KARACHI (R) — Several thousand people attended prayers on Friday for Shahnawaz Bhutto, dead son of executed former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, at the family's home-town of Larkana in Pakistan's southern province of Sind, witnesses said. Shahnawaz, 26, was found dead in France last month and was buried on Wednesday near Larkana beside the grave of his father. His sister, opposition leader Beazir Bhutto, ended 19 months of exile in Europe to bring his body home. Ms. Bhutto on Thursday met leaders of her banned Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) who came to Larkana for the funeral and reviewed the political situation, party sources said.

U.S. test-fires MX from silo

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, California (R) — The United States test-fired an MX nuclear missile from an underground silo for the first time Friday, sending the armed missile streaking on a 4,100 mile flight over the Pacific. Eight previous test firings of the intercontinental missile, all from canisters mounted above ground on a concrete pad at Vandenberg, have been successful. The missile, capable of carrying 10 independently targeted warheads, carried six unarmed warheads on a path towards Kwajalein Island in the Pacific test range, where a special monitoring system measured the accuracy of the shot. Results of the test were not immediately available.

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Tunisia-Libya tension reaches new heights

Tunis alerts forces, follows border movements

TUNIS (Agencies) — Tunisia alerted its forces and closely followed the movement of Libyan troops near the border as tension grew between the two North African neighbours over Libya's expulsion of Tunisian migrant workers, diplomatic sources said.

An authoritative source told Reuters Tunisia regarded the Libyan expulsions as part of a plan to destabilise the government. "Everything points towards a premeditated effort to destabilise Tunisia," said the source who asked not to be named.

The official Tunisian news agency TAP said Friday Libya had thrown out 24,229 of the 92,000 Tunisians working there. Tunisia, for its part, has expelled 283 Libyans, including most of Tripoli's diplomats. Thirty Libyan diplomats accused of spying were ordered to leave on Thursday.

Diplomatic sources said Tunisian forces were on alert after Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi threatened military action unless Tunisia halted what he called a press campaign against Libya.

Witnesses told Reuters Tunisian military convoys had been seen heading for the south of the country in the past few days and Western diplomats said the region was on full alert.

The diplomats said Tunisian forces had been in an increased state of readiness since Libya began the expulsions several weeks ago.

An increase in Libyan troop movements was expected before the anniversary on Sept. 1 of the coup that brought Col. Qadhafi to power in 1969, they said.

The diplomats said the latest tension was no more serious than war of words typical of the often stormy relations between the two countries. Five years ago 41 people were killed in an attack on the southern Tunisian town of Gaes, which Tunisia said was Libyan inspired and aimed at destabilising President Habib Bourguiba's government.

Tunisian newspapers and television have given wide coverage to accounts by expelled Tunisians who say they were forced to leave without their savings and were maltreated by Libyans. Libya has also expelled 100,000 workers from Egypt and smaller numbers from Mali, Mauritania and Niger in what it says is a "drive for labour self-sufficiency."

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Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Friday the expulsions were inhuman and two leading Egyptian newspapers called for international retaliation.

The mass circulation Al Akhbar called for an international boycott of the Libyan government and said the decision to expel Egyptian and other Arab workers was against international law.

It accused Col. Qadhafi of financing international terrorism; a charge echoed by the daily Al Ahram.

Al Ahram said Libya's expulsion of Egyptian workers came as no surprise given Col. Qadhafi's open admission that he encourages international terrorism.

Mr. Mubarak denounced Col. Qadhafi in an interview with Al Akhbar as "an adventurer who supports international terrorism," but said he would not undertake any military action against Libya.

Egyptian troops have been deployed along the western desert frontier with Libya since the two countries fought a war in 1977. Calling the Libyan move an "inhuman and irresponsible act," Mr. Mubarak said Col. Qadhafi was economically bankrupt.

"He wants to change an economic crisis into a political game by which he expels Egyptians

(Continued on page 3)

BA says it was not informed of advice to inspect Boeing engines

MANCHESTER, England (Agencies) — British Airways said Friday it was ordering precautionary checks on all engines like the one that exploded on a British Airways Boeing 737 and turned the jet into an inferno killing 54 people.

The state-owned airline also said it had not been told of a directive issued in the United States to check U.S.-made Pratt and Whitney engines — which powered the ill-fated plane — following seven cases of engine problems in four years.

Britain's Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), however, said all British operators of the several types of planes with Pratt and Whitney engines had been informed of the U.S.-ordered safety checks, though they were not mandatory in Britain.

"The airlines were informed for their information only," a CAA press officer who did not permit use of his name told the Associated Press.

He said the CAA, which is in charge of air safety in Britain, could have made the directive mandatory but had not.

British Airways press officer Alan Solloway told reporters in Manchester, where crash investigators were inspecting the charred bulk of the plane, that the airline was making what he called "computerised checks" immediately on the engines of the 30 Boeing 737s it operates.

British Airways plane was leaving on a charter holiday flight to the Greek island of Corfu when an engine explosion and fire ripped through the plane, gutting it in one minute.

Fifteen of 83 survivors were still in hospital on Friday.

British officials told Reuters that chief crash inspector Geoffrey Wilkinson was examining the possibility that a ruptured fuel pipe caused the engine explosion, rather than the reverse.

"We are looking at what the sequence was," the officials said. Firemen and survivors had insisted the explosion preceded the fire.

A 20-year-old woman who climbed over seats to escape from the burning Boeing said Friday

that more people could have survived if passengers hadn't panicked.

Speaking from her hospital bed, Avna Findlay said passengers were not told what to do and had to open the emergency exits themselves to escape from the plane.

"If we hadn't panicked, more people would have got out," said Miss Findlay, one of the 83 survivors of the accident. (See page 8)

Members of the cabin crew have not made any statements about the accident, and British Airways, which owns British Airtrons, said it could not comment on who had opened the exits while the incident was being investigated.

Gil Thompson, the chief executive of Manchester's ringway airport, said it appeared the disaster began with the disintegration of part of the turbine fan in the port engine.

This theory prompted concern about the safety of the Pratt and Whitney engine, the JT-8D-15.

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Japan witnesses fifth aircraft trouble in two days, page 8

Uneasy calm prevails in Beirut after days of devastating battles

BEIRUT (Agencies) — An uneasy truce took hold in Beirut Friday after four days of heavy shelling, amid reports that Syrian peacekeeping troops may return to the city after a three-year absence.

Militia officials and Syrian and Lebanese army officers met to discuss ways to consolidate a ceasefire that took hold Thursday night after a four-days of artillery and rocket battles between rival militias, radios said.

The barrages killed about 100 people and wounded hundreds more, the vast majority civilians. Grenade and machine-gun battles flared briefly in nearby hills overnight.

The Al Hakika newspaper, which is close to Shi'ite leader Nabih Berri, said officials were considering three peace plans for Beirut, one of which envisioned deployment of thousands of Syrian troops in and around the capital.

Under the plan, militias would remove heavy weapons from Beirut and the Lebanese army would

return to barracks "for rehabilitation under Syrian supervision," the paper said.

The An Nahar daily said Syrian observers who already monitor security in Muslim dominated west Beirut would be sent to cover the mostly Christian east and the battlefield in between.

Mr. Berri and Prime Minister Rashid Karami have warned that deployment of Syrian observers along Beirut's "green line" battlefield would be insufficient to maintain peace.

Syria sent 35 observers to west Beirut last month to supervise removal of militiamen from the streets, but sectarian tension soared this month when huge car bombs killed more than 110 people in both eastern and western sectors of the city.

West Beirut militias say that in the ensuing shelling Christian units of the army turned heavy guns on civilians. Mr. Berri on Thursday demanded that army commanders found to have shelled west Beirut should be put on trial.

He also said Syrian observers should deploy "at every point which is claimed by the other side as a source of shelling."

Flight operations were resumed at Beirut airport at midday (0900 GMT), Friday when the first jet-liner of the Middle East Airlines, Lebanon's national carrier, arrived from Larnaca, Cyprus, airport spokesman said.

Flights were suspended on Wednesday, when a 30-round mortar barrage destroyed one MEA Boeing 727 jet and damaged three other planes.

MEA President Salim Salam said the carrier's regular flights to Egypt, the Gulf and Western Europe resumed at 1:30 p.m. (1030 GMT).

Queen Noor celebrates birthday; expects fourth child in February

AMMAN (Agencies) — Her Majesty Queen Noor, who on Friday celebrated her 34th birthday, is expecting her fourth child in February, the Royal Court announced. His Majesty King Hussein and Queen Noor, a graduate of Princeton University with a degree in architecture and urban planning, got married on June 15, 1978.

King Hussein and Queen Noor have two sons, and a daughter: Prince Hamzah, born in 1980, and Prince Hashem, born in 1981, and Princess Inan, born in 1983.

Under the guidance of King Hussein, Her Majesty has contributed to the Kingdom's progress in cultural, educational and social fields. In order to promote higher education among Jordanians in certain specialisations which are relevant to the country's rapid development and progress, Her Majesty founded the Royal Endowment for Culture and Education (RECE), in 1980.

The RECE provides young Jordanians with grants to pursue their higher education in some of the top American universities. In addition, the RECE carries out many surveys in the fields of labour and man-power requirements.

The endowment also sponsors cultural and artistic activities such as the pan-Arab play "Thousand and One Tales from Souk Ukaz", which was presented during the Fourth Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts last month.

Queen Noor has also initiated two cultural programmes which have been held for the fifth year in Jordan: the Jerash Festival of the Arab Children's Congress.

Queen Noor, who initiated the idea of the Jerash Festival, is also the Jerash Festival's Higher National Committee chairman.

The festival aims to promote and to support Jordan's heritage, culture, and arts, and to bridge communication and cultural gaps between Jordan and the Arab World and Jordan and the world nations. It has become a cultural and artistic landmark of Jordan.

Queen Noor also initiated the Arab Children's Congress, which is a cultural pan-Arab programme that aims to deepen Arab children's awareness of their common culture and goals. Queen Noor believes that "Arab children ought to have direct access to the

(Continued on page 3)

Peres warns Likud on settlement policy

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres warned right-wing Likud deputies Friday that their sharp criticism of settlement policies in the occupied West Bank threatened the future of the coalition government.

Mr. Peres spoke in a 60-minute meeting with Likud leader and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir where he berated industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon for unleashing verbal attacks on the ruling Labour Party.

A Peres aide speaking on condition of anonymity confirmed an Israel Radio report about the meeting.

The session at Mr. Peres' residence came after Mr. Shamir indicated at a closed party forum Thursday night he would favour dismantling the 11-month-old government to call early elections if Mr. Peres did not expand Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

The cabinet dispute erupted Tuesday over a government decision to dislodge seven legislators from a house they were occupying illegally in the West Bank city of Hebron.

Mr. Sharon said Labour Party ministers were liars and accused them of making a "hypocritical pretence" by blocking the expansion of Hebron's Jewish enclave.

Mr. Peres demanded from Mr. Shamir "clarifications" that such verbiage would not persist, the radio said. "I will not accept such expressions as uttered by Sharon," the premier said.

Mr. Peres' remarks were not seen as a prelude to the fall of his government but underscored escalating tension caused by ideological differences on the West Bank's future. The United States increased efforts to launch Mid-

Israelis destroy 2 W. Bank homes

OCCUPIED WEST BANK (Agencies) — Israeli troops destroyed the homes of two Palestinians suspected of being resistance activists and blocked off a third home in the occupied West Bank overnight, the Israeli military said Friday. The military said the suspects were from the village of Anabta. It said they were arrested recently and charged with killing another Palestinian suspected of collaborating with the occupation forces and with separate shooting attacks that wounded two Israelis in 1983. A week ago, soldiers bricked up four houses in a Palestinian refugee camp near the West Bank city of Nablus. The actions were part of a renewed occupation move against anti-Israeli attacks that in areas occupied by Israel in the 1967 war.

King orders reduction in interest rates on loans for housing

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Thursday passed directives requesting the government to exempt municipal and village councils from paying the cost of lighting streets and other public places and to reduce by 25 per cent the interest rates on charged loans given to individuals for housing projects.

The King's directives, which are designed to improve the socio-economic conditions of people in the rural regions throughout the Kingdom, also requested that the administrative status of the Mafraq district should be raised to governorate. The decision to raise the Mafraq district to a governorate aims to promote the development of the country's eastern region and to offer better services to its inhabitants.

The King also donated JD 100,000 to charitable and voluntary societies in the rural regions of Jordan.

The directives were issued to coincide with the 'Eid Al Adha Feast (Feast of the Sacrifice)' which marks the end of this year's pilgrimage to Mecca which falls on Monday.

The King's directives to the government could be seen as a direct interpretation of an earlier visit made to the Mafraq district by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, on Wednesday. During the visit the Crown Prince met with the local inhabitants, mostly bedouins, and heard their needs and demands.

Prince Hassan's visit to the area was part of an inspection tour of villages and population settlements in the northeastern parts of Mafraq district.

During his visit, Prince Hassan told inhabitants that the King was keen on developing the badia region and providing all types of services to its inhabitants.

Prince Hassan also spoke of the need for conducting a detailed survey to define the bedouin's needs for educational and health services. Prince Hassan also stressed the need for linking the Badia region with the main Amman-Baghdad Highway

W. German 'spycatcher' seeks asylum in East

EAST BERLIN (R) — East Germany announced Friday that one of West Germany's top counter-espionage officials had defected to the communist state, dealing a severe blow to Western intelligence efforts.

The official ADN news agency said Hans Joachim Tiedge, who disappeared last weekend amid a major spy scandal in Bonn, had arrived in East Germany and asked for political asylum.

The agency gave no details and did not make clear whether Mr. Tiedge had any past links with East German intelligence.

West Germany's counter-espionage service, known as the Office for the Protection of the Constitution, said Thursday that Mr. Tiedge had vanished but that there was no evidence he was in East Germany. Mr. Tiedge reported sick by telephone on Sunday.

Three other spy suspects have vanished without trace this month including the secretary to West German Economics Minister Martin Bangemann and a messenger at an army administrative department. ADN did not say whether they had come to East Berlin and the government here has declined comment.

The East Berlin press hinted at the espionage coup in front-page reports Friday which said 168 West German agents had been captured in the last 18 months.

In Bonn, the government said Friday the Tiedge defection would seriously damage West Germany's security.

The ADN announcement of the defection said: "The long-serving government director responsible for counter-espionage in the Office for the Protection of the Constitution (West Germany's security

service), Hans Joachim Tiedge, has crossed to the GDR (East Germany) and asked for asylum. The request is being examined by the responsible authorities of the GDR."

Mr. Tiedge was involved in countering East German espionage services within West Germany and was not strictly responsible for operating agents overseas.

But one senior Western diplomat in East Berlin said of the wider implications for Bonn's allies:

"The exchange of information between national intelligence agencies and other allied services, is such that the damage may be very wide."

Other Western intelligence agencies would probably be opening immediate consultations on the implications, the diplomat said.

He said the case could rank alongside the 'Guenter Guillaume affair as a major success for East Germany's espionage service — the Ministry for State Security (MfS).

Mr. Guillaume, an MfS agent infiltrated into West Germany in 1956, worked his way up to become the personal aide of Chancellor Willy Brandt.

He was arrested in 1974 and sentenced to jail for 13 years.

Seven years later he was allowed to go to the East in an exchange and is now believed to be living just outside East Berlin.

In Bonn, West German officials expressed shock over Tiedge's defection.

Diplomats compared this month's events with the breakup of a spy ring in 1979 after the arrest of East German agent Ingrid Garbe, secretary to Bonn's army mission at NATO.

Luxembourg minister ends visit after voicing support for Feb. 11 accord

AMMAN (Petra) — Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jacques Poos left Amman Thursday at the end of a three-day visit to Jordan during which he was received in audience by His Majesty King Hussein and had talks with Jordanian officials.

They discussed Middle East developments, Jordanian relations with Luxembourg and the role of the European Community (EC) in the Middle East peace efforts.

Before leaving Amman, Mr. Poos had a meeting with his Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan with whom he had a general review of the economic relations between the European Community and Jordan.

Prince Hassan also discussed with Mr. Poos the current situation in the occupied Arab territories in the light of Israel's settlement plans.

Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and Belgium's ambassador to Jordan Guido Vansina were present at the meeting.

Also Thursday Mr. Poos conferred with Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai. At the meeting, held at the Prime Ministry, a general review of Middle East developments and initiatives for establishing peace in the region were made.

Both sides emphasised the role which Europe can play in achieving peace.

At the meeting, Mr. Poos voiced his country's support for the Jordanian-Palestinian accord, signed in Amman on Feb. 11. He

said Luxembourg considers that accord as the most significant and positive political development in the region, "aimed at establishing a just and durable peace."

Mr. Poos said that he will submit a report on his visit and talks at the European Community's next meeting due in Luxembourg on Sept. 10.

He also said he will maintain contacts with concerned parties to overcome obstacles impeding the establishment of peace in the region.

"This opportunity for peace presented through the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement should not be missed," Mr. Poos said.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Masri, Jordan's ambassador to Luxembourg, Hassan Abu Nimeh and Mr. Poos's aides.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan receives Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jacques Poos Thursday. Also present is Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri (Petra photo)

APU to take part in Ottawa meeting

DAMASCUS (Petra) — Arab Parliamentary Unit (APU) will take part in the 7th conference of the International Parliamentary Union (IPIU) due to be held in the Canadian capital of Ottawa on Sept. 2. APU Secretary General Abdul Rahman Bouradi has said.

The 14 Arab Parliamentary units, members to the IPU, will lodge a request for adding an item on the situations in the Middle East, including the Palestine question and the Iran-Iraq war on the conference's agenda. Mr. Bouradi said.

For this purpose, he added,

Arab Parliamentary units, taking part in the conference, will draft the item to be added to the conference's agenda which will be put forward at the conference for voting.

Speaking about the conference's discussions, Mr. Bouradi said the conference will discuss the parliamentary units' contributions to the International Youth Year with main concentration on the youth's rights to education, vocational training, work and social security.

The conference will also discuss developing legal instruments for

combating illicit traffic among the World countries, including the preparation of a new agreement by the United Nations Committee on Narcotics.

Mr. Bouradi added that the Palestinian National Council (PNC), the Palestinian Parliament in exile, has presented a memo about the conditions of youth in the occupied Arab territories.

The conference will also elect a chairman and a vice-chairman for the conference, in addition to electing a member for the executive committee to replace the East German representative whose term of membership has ended.

Turkey to seek pact revision with U.S.

ANKARA (R) — Turkey will seek revision of its defence and economic cooperation agreement with the United States, Prime Minister Turgut Ozal was quoted as saying.

Mr. Ozal, quoted by Turkey's semi-official Anatolian News Agency from Houston, Texas, where he is recovering from eye surgery, said aid received from Washington in the past two years had been insufficient.

The current five-year pact, expiring on Dec. 18, is renewed automatically unless either side gives three months' notice of termination. Either side can seek revision any time.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman told Reuters that Turkey had not notified Washington about seeking a revision. "We will announce that at the appropriate time," he said.

The Anatolian News Agency said review talks were expected to cover all aspects of the agreement, under which Turkey was due to receive \$879 million in grants and loans in the year ending next month.

Mr. Ozal was quoted as saying: "Our biggest complaint at this point is that they put Turkey and Greece in the same basket and implement a 7 to 10 ratio."

The strength of the Greek lobby in the U.S. Congress, Turkish aid is limited by that given to Greece with a 7:10 ratio in Ankara's favour.

Greece and Turkey, both members of the NATO alliance, are at odds over a range of issues, including Cyprus and rights to the Aegean Sea.

The pact does not say how much aid Turkey will receive, but commits Washington to "exert its best efforts to provide mutual-agreed financial and technical assistance."

Egypt, Israel initial tourism pact

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel and Egypt Friday initiated an agreement to help boost tourist traffic between the two countries.

Egyptian Tourism Minister Wahid Shindi and his Israeli counterpart Avraham Sharir initiated the document at Ben Gurion Airport at the end of a three-day official visit by Mr. Shindi.

The two ministers also agreed that Mr. Sharir should pay an official visit to Egypt before the end of the year.

Under the new agreement, joint teams will try to improve and broaden tourist traffic in both directions and work on a plan to be signed when the two ministers meet again in Berlin at a tourist trade fair in March next year.

In a short statement before his departure, Mr. Shindi said that there could be no retreat from peace, and the only way to go was forward. He said his visit to Israel had been fruitful and beneficial to both countries.

Spanish envoy says move to restore ties with Israel is 'normal'

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Spanish ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Menendez del Valle, said Friday that Spain's decision to normalise diplomatic relations with Israel by 1986 was not a prerequisite for Spain to join the European Community (EC) but it is rather a "normal rule" since all EC member countries have ties with both Arab countries and Israel.

Mr. Menendez del Valle said Spain, following the scheduled inclusion in the EC in January 1986, is expected to have "inevitable contacts" with Israel on the basis of trade agreements between the EC and the Jewish state.

"Spain will sooner or later chair one of the other trade committee that deals directly with Israel which most European countries undertake," he told the Jordan Times Friday.

resumption of ties with Israel but the move would occur at an appropriate time.

"We must take advantage of a moment which would contribute to peace in the area," he said.

Spain and Israel have never had full diplomatic ties.

Last April Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez confirmed he planned to normalise relations before the end of his four-year term next year but said he also hoped for a gesture from Israel to promote peace in the Middle East.

Asked whether he expected the Spanish to prompt Arab representation, Mr. Menendez del Valle contended that the normalisation of relations with any country was an internal issue and a "formality of universal relations which do not imply reactions." He also said he did not expect a setback in relations between Arab states and Spain.

The ambassador said normalisation of Spain's relations with Israel could enable Spain to play a "mediation" role in the Middle East.

Rebel attack claims 20 lives in southern Sudan

KHARTOUM (R) — Twenty people were killed when rebels attacked a village in southern Sudan, the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) has reported.

It said four rebels were also killed during the Tuesday raid on Wad Dakina and government forces chased off the remainder of the rebel force.

SUNA said students and political groups demonstrated to demand improved deterrence against rebel forces during the funeral of seven on the Wad Dakina victims at the nearby town of Kosti.

Sudanese troops in parts of the south are already on full alert in the face of what a government spokesman last week called "a tense situation" created by rebels led by former Col. John Garang.

Col. Garang, whose forces fought former President Jaafar Numeiri for two years, has spurned peace offerings from the military leaders who overthrew Numeiri in April.

Israel's Lavi project goes on despite lack of partners

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's project to build a new generation warplane, the Lavi fighter, is to go ahead despite the failure to find an American aircraft manufacturer as a co-partner, a Defence Ministry spokesman has said.

Development of the Lavi (lion) fighter, which is expected to have its first test flight late next year, has placed a huge burden on the inflation-plagued economy.

The spokesman said Israel, which has been trying since early 1982 to interest U.S. aircraft manufacturers in a co-production scheme, has not found a partner.

The Lavi project came under renewed criticism at a meeting of the inner cabinet but eventually ministers decided by eight votes to two to continue development.

According to press leaks, the two negative votes were cast by Finance Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Minister Without Portfolio Ezer Weizman, who as defence minister initiated the Lavi project in 1979.

Mr. Weizman, an ex-fighter pilot, argued the project had become too ambitious and it was not clear how the plane would fit in Israel's line-up of combat aircraft.

local newspapers reported. Israel plans to produce 300 Lavis to replace its ageing U.S. Phantoms and the locally-made Keir, which is based on the French Mirage.

Western experts said the project, originally priced at around \$4 billion, was now expected to exceed \$6 billion with no guaranteed overseas market for the plane.

This appeared to be one of the main reasons why the big three U.S. aircraft manufacturers had not accepted Israeli proposals for a joint venture, they said.

Finance Minister Mordechai told reporters he wanted the project to be funded solely with American aid. At present U.S. military assistance to the Lavi is about \$250 million a year.

Although the Lavi relies heavily on American technology, the project has provided badly-needed orders for Israeli firms and jobs for about 12,000 Israelis.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, in an interview in the Jerusalem Post Thursday, said because of Israel's recent combat experience against Soviet warplanes, the Lavi would have features never before fitted in U.S. fighters.

2 AUB employees kidnapped in Beirut

BEIRUT, Lebanon (Agencies) — Two Lebanese employees of the kidnap-plagued American University of Beirut (AUB) have been abducted since Sunday, university spokesman Radwan Mawlawi said Friday.

He identified the pair as Seman Gaddaa, who worked in the university hospital's admissions department, and Simon Skaff, a university librarian. Both are Christians aged in the mid-30s.

Mr. Mawlawi said Mr. Gaddaa was abducted Monday on his way home from Muslim west Beirut, where the university and hospital are located, to Christian east Beirut.

He was last seen near the Barbir Road bridge crossing the Green Line that splits Beirut into two sectors. Mr. Mawlawi gave no other details.

He said it was not known who seized the hospital aide. But he noted that university authorities have contacted the security committee, comprising representatives of the Lebanese army and main Muslim and Christian militias, in a bid to secure his release.

Mr. Mawlawi said Mr. Skaff was apparently kidnapped by gunmen last Sunday as he travelled from East Beirut to the Muslim sector. The spokesman said it was not known who grabbed Mr. Skaff.

The kidnaps took place amid heavy sectarian fighting and a spate of tit-for-tat car bombings.

and suspicion fell on opposition factions.

Three AUB officials have been kidnapped in recent months. They are Peter Kilburn, 60, a university librarian missing since Dec. 3 last year; hospital director David Jacobson, 54, kidnapped on May 28; and Thomas Sutherland, 53, dean of the university's Agricultural Faculty, abducted on June 9.

All three are Americans and were believed to be held by Islamic Jihad, a shadowy, fundamentalist Shiite Muslim group.

It is also believed to hold four other Americans and four Frenchmen. It has said it will exchange them for 17 comrades convicted in Kuwait for bombings there. Kuwait refuses to free the men.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad has pledged to try to gain freedom for seven U.S. and four French kidnaps victims held in Lebanon, a U.S. congressman said Wednesday.

Republican George O'Brien said in television interview after a visit to Damascus that Mr. Assad told him he was uncertain who was holding the hostages.

"But I did get the reassurance from him that for humanitarian reasons he and his country would do everything they could to continue to try to find and negotiate the release of the seven Americans, and I also threw in the four French too," Mr. O'Brien said.

U.S. embassy in Beirut reportedly left Marines vulnerable to attack

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Marines stationed at Beirut airport were left vulnerable to attack because of the political nature of their mission, according to statements by a Marine commander in secret testimony.

"The mission was political. We were not tactically deployed in a military sense," the commander of the Marine amphibious forces in Lebanon, Col. Timothy Geraghty, told the House Armed Services Investigative Subcommittee in 1983.

The subcommittee has released transcripts of its closed hearings held in November and December 1983 into a commando truck bomb attack that killed 24 U.S. Marines at the Beirut airport barracks on Oct. 23, 1983.

Col. Geraghty said the location was chosen to establish a U.S. political presence in the city and precluded security measures that could have been taken had they been on a strictly military mission.

The subcommittee in December 1983 issued a report highly critical of military commanders for providing inadequate security for the troops.

Although it did not name him, the subcommittee report criticised Col. Geraghty, identified only as commander of the Marine amphibious unit, for "serious errors in judgment in failing to provide be-

ter protection for his troops." The guards had their weapons unloaded, the gate was open and iron pipes in front of the building were not large enough to stop the truck, it said.

Prior to the release of the transcripts, the subcommittee had not named the witnesses at the closed hearings.

Col. Geraghty added that part of the failure was the lack of intelligence information. This had not led them to expect a commando threat of the size which occurred.

He said U.S. intelligence did not have the ability to check out more than 100 car bomb threats received from June to October.

Israeli police dismantled 2 bombs

TEL AVIV (R) — Two explosive charges were found near Ashkelon in southern Israel Friday but were dismantled by a police bomb squad before they did any damage, the police said. One charge was found in the Puzhich Chemical Plant on the outskirts of the town, and the other near the Frez roadblock at the approach to the occupied Gaza Strip.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 773111-19

MAIN CHANNEL

17:00 Koran
17:30 Cartoons
18:00 The Rivers
18:30 Programme on Flowers
19:00 News in English
19:30 Local Programme
20:00 News Programme
20:30 News in Arabic
21:00 Arabic Series
21:30 Tomorrow's Programmes
22:00 Local programme on the latest books published
22:30 Arabic series
23:00 News in Arabic

FOREIGN CHANNEL

17:30 German Programme
18:00 L'ecole des fans
18:30 Bonjour Bon appetit
19:00 News in French
19:30 Le vent du large
20:00 News in Hebrew
20:30 News in Arabic
21:00 Vietnam - Eps. 21
21:30 Sunday Variety Show
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature Film: Anne of the Thousand Days - Richard Burton, Genevieve Bujald

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 KHz, FM
& partly on 95.60 KHz, SW
Tel: 771111-19

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
09:00 Pop Session
09:30 News Summary
10:00 Pop Session, cont.
10:30 News Summary
11:00 News Bulletin
11:30 Jordan Weekly
12:00 Music
12:30 Concert Hour
13:00 News Summary
13:30 Instrumentals
14:00 Old Favourites
14:30 Talking Points
15:00 Animal Vegetable Mineral
15:30 News Summary
16:00 Top Twenty
16:30 News
17:00 Date with a Star
17:30 The 15th Century A.H.
18:00 The Young Soldier
18:30 News Summary
19:00 25 Years of Rock
20:00 News Summary
20:30 The Stars

23:00 News Summary
23:30 Country Music
23:57 News Headlines
24:00 Close down

BBC WORLD SERVICE

07:00 Newsdesk 07:30 That's That 07:45 Financial News 07:55 Reflections 08:00 World News 08:05 News Summary 08:30 About Britain 08:45 The World Today 09:00 Newsdesk 09:30 Album Time 10:00 World News 10:09 24 Hours: News Summary 10:30 From the Weeklies 10:45 Network U.K. 11:00 World News 11:09 Reflections 11:15 A Jolly Good Show 12:00 World News 12:09 British Press Review 12:15 The World Today 12:30 Financial News 12:40 Look Ahead 12:45 The Age of Elegance 13:00 News Summary: That's That 13:30 People and Politics 14:00 News About Britain 14:15 About Britain 14:30 Meridian 15:00 Radio News 15:15 Anybody Good 15:45 Sports Round-up 16:00 World News 16:09 Twenty-four Hours: News Summary 16:30 Network U.K. 16:45 Country Music Profile 17:00 News Summary: Saturday Special 17:30 Album Time 18:00 Radio Newsdesk 18:15 Saturday Special 19:00 World News 19:09 Commentary 19:15 Saturday Special 20:00 News Summary: Saturday Special 20:45 Sports Round-up 21:00 Newsdesk 21:30 Baker's Half Dozen 21:45 News Summary: The Go Between 22:05 Classical Record Review 23:00 World News 23:09 24 Hours: News Summary 23:30 Promenade Concert 24:00 News Summary: Keep to the Path 01:00 World News 01:09 From our own Correspondents 01:30 News Ideas 01:40 Reflections 01:45 Sports Round-up 02:00 World News 02:09 Commentary 02:15 Letterbox 02:30 Meridian

VOICE OF AMERICA

1260 MW, 7200, 9565, 11740 11925 and 15210 KHz.

06:00 News, 06:10 VOA Morning 06:30 News Summary/VOA Morning 07:00 News 07:10 VOA Morning 07:30 News Summary/VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10 Closeup 08:30 News Summary/VOA Morning 08:40 News 08:50 VOA Morning 09:00 News 09:10 VOA Morning 09:30 News Summary/VOA Morning 09:40 News 09:50 This Week 10:00 Press Conference USA 10:10 News 10:20 American viewpoints 10:30 Special English News Features 20:00 News 20:10 Weekend 21:00 News 21:10 Close-up 21:30 Special English News and Features 22:00 News 22:10 Press Conference USA 23:00 News and Editorial 23:15 Music USA Jazz 24:00 News 00:10 Weekend

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

CIRCUS

* Hungarian circus at Hussein Youth City. 2 performances a day.

* Italian circus. Between 6th and 7th Circle near Jordan Electricity Authority.

VIDEO

* Video Fete at 4:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre. Tel. 661026/7
American Centre 64371
American Centre Library 641520
British Centre 636147/8
French Cultural Centre 63709
Goethe Institute 641993
Soviet Cultural Centre 644203
Spanish Cultural Centre 624049
Turkish Cultural Centre 639777
Hays Arts Centre 665195
Hussein Youth City 667181/6
Y.W.C.A. 641793
Y.W.M.C.A. 664251
Amman Municipal Library 637111
University of Jordan Library 843555

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre. Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabel Al-Ja' (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Galleries: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabel Luweibid. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630129.
Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.

Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 637169.

SERVICE CLUBS

Ums Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn. 1:30 p.m.
Ums Pasha Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel. 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphian Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn. 1:30 p.m.
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel. 2:00 p.m.
Royal Automobile Club, Jabel Amman. Eighth Circle. Tel. 815261, 815410.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Amman. Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabel Luweibid. 637440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabel Hussein. 661797.
Church of the Ascension (Greek Orthodox) Abdali. 623541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabel Amman. 678906.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh. 771751.
Amman International Church (Interdenominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani. 816534. 817534.
Evangelical Lutheran Church, Jabel Amman. 6th Circle. (Rev. N. Smir). Tel. 811295.
Rainbow Congregation (Interdenominational, Intercommunal) meets in the Church of the Redeemer, Jabel Amman. Tel. 663249.

PRAYER TIMES

04:36 Fajr
06:06 Sunrise
12:39 Dhuhr
16:17 Asr
19:49 Maghrib
20:36 Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

JUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia Information department at the Jueen Alia International Airport, tel. (08) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

07:25 London, Laraca (BA)
09:45 Athens (AE)
10:30 Kuwait (RJ)
10:40 Doha (RJ)
10:45 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
10:50 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)
11:00 Dhahran (RJ)
11:00 Singapore (RJ)
11:15 Riyadh (RJ)
12:05 Cairo (MS)
13:00 Muscat, Doha, Bahrain (GF)
13:20 Moscow (SU)
14:35 Kuwait (KU)
17:15 Laraca (RJ)
18:15 Baghdad (GA)
18:30 New York, Vienna (RJ)
18:30 Cairo (RJ)
19:00 Paris, Damascus (AF)
19:45 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
19:55 Istanbul (RJ)
19:55 Rome, Damascus (AZ)
21:00 Frankfurt (LH)
01:25 Baghdad (RJ)

DEPARTURES

06:20 Frankfurt (LH)
07:30 Athens (AE)
09:10 Laraca, London (BA)
11:45 Tripoli (RJ)
12:30 Brussels, Paris (RJ)
12:45 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
12:50 Cairo (MS)
13:00 London (RJ)
13:15 Frankfurt (RJ)
13:15 Vienna, New York (RJ)
13:30 Laraca (RJ)
13:30 Rome (RJ)
14:00 Istanbul (RJ)
14:15 Bahrain (GF)
14:20 Moscow (SU)
14:30 Kuwait (KU)
15:35 Baghdad (GA)
16:30 Kuwait (RJ)
20:30 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:10 Baghdad (RJ)
21:25 Jeddah (RJ)
21:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:15 Cairo (RJ)

MARITIME TRAFFIC

Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port:

--- Koh Jin
--- Cania I
--- Pharos
--- Vishva Parag
--- Andes Trader
--- Alshira
--- Mercurio Arabia

Amin Kassar and Sons Company, Tel: 622324-9 at your service.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be very hot. Light and variable winds will become northerly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be hot, with northerly moderate winds and calm sea.

Low/high temperature in deg. C:

Amman 22/40
Aqaba 28/42
Dead Sea 25/42
Jordan Valley 25/43

Jordan, Iraq sign accord on joint industrial firm

BAGHDAD (J.T.) — Iraq and Jordan have signed an agreement to set up a joint industrial company with its headquarters to be in Baghdad.

The agreement came at a meeting between Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan and Minister of Industry and Trade Rajai Al Muasher.

Underlining the significance of joint Arab ventures, Mr. Ramadan described the new company as "a nucleus for joint Arab action in the industrial field." Such ventures, he pointed out, were vital for establishing strategic projects covering the entire Arab world.

He referred to the successes achieved by the joint Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Company set up in 1981.

The governing board of the new company has already met to review projects to be carried out by the company.

Upon his return to Amman Dr. Muasher said that his talks with

Iraqi officials were "successful". He said that the talks, conducted through a joint Jordanian-Iraqi committee in Baghdad, reviewed trade and economic relations between the two countries.

Dr. Muasher met with Mr. Hassan Ali, the Iraqi minister of trade, and discussed prospects of increasing the volume of trade between the two countries. During the visit, Dr. Muasher signed an agreement to allow the storage of Iraqi food supplies in Jordan. Both sides also agreed that an Iraqi trade delegation should visit Jordan in the coming month to conclude contracts on the purchase of Jordanian products, the minister said.

Dr. Muasher said that he also met with Mr. Subhi Yassin, the Iraqi minister of industry and minerals, and that they reviewed cooperation between Jordan and Iraq in transport and energy affairs.



The Lower House of Parliament in session Thursday (Petra photo)

House endorses Senate amendments to income tax law, real estate sales

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament, in its last extraordinary session during the summer recess, approved on Thursday a controversial 1984 draft law on income tax which was earlier returned by the Upper House (Senate) requesting amendments.

During the House's 10-minute session, it also approved the 1982 temporary law number 11 for the year 1982 for voluntary organisations for urban development. Amendments were also carried out on the law's Article Number 15 which stipulate that the organisations can carry out developmental projects in the Kingdom provided they get approval from the concerned municipal councils. After the project is completed, it becomes municipality owned.

During Thursday's session, which was delayed for 40 minutes because of late arrivals by a number of deputies and ministers, the House approved the income tax law for the year 1984 after the legal and financial joint committee of the two houses incorporated slight amendments to a number of its articles as requested by the Senate.

The amendments stipulate that all income and profits generated from selling lands and real estate are considered as "capital profits and revenues" and therefore they should be exempted from income tax. The law treats land and real estate revenues in the same level as revenues obtained from the exchange and selling of bonds and shares. The original law had stated that all incomes generated from land and real estate dealings should be subject to income tax.

Economic observers in Jordan believe that this law comes in accordance with the cabinet's new policy as outlined by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, when he issued new regulations to revitalize the land and real estate sector.

The amendments also stipulate that 30 per cent of revenues generated from real estate dealings and as apartment rents in Amman Governorate are exempted from income tax, while 50 per cent of the income generated from real estate and apartment rents throughout other governorates are exempted from income tax. Formerly all incomes from real estate dealings and rents were subject to income tax.

Observers also believe that this

amendment is another direct interpretation of the government's new policy to revive the country's economy and to encourage people to lower rents.

Another important amendment in the income tax law stated that government employees should pay income tax on 50 per cent of their salaries, while the other 50 per cent is exempted.

The previous law exempted all salaries of government employees from income tax.

Deputy Atih Al Ezz opposed this amendment saying that "all government employees should be exempted from paying income tax because of their low incomes and low standards of life."

Deputy Abdullah Aqailah responded to Mr. Al Ezz's suggestion saying that income tax on 50 per cent of government employees' salaries will only affect senior officials who are paid higher than junior officials.

Dr. Aqailah added that all deputies are convinced that 50 per cent of the wages of government employees should be subject to income tax, because "government employees should somehow be equal to private sector employees, who have to pay income tax according to their salaries."

Another amendment stated that all bad debts and doubtful debts could be written off from the total income which is subject to income tax. The law specified, these bad and doubtful debts as those which have been left uncollected for three years, provided that the percentage of these debts is not more than a total of 1.5 per cent of total debts. The newly amended law says that rapid debts throughout the year will be considered as part of the year's total income which is subject to tax.

The approved tax law also incorporated an amendment to rules covering the wages and salaries paid by foreign companies based and registered in Jordan to all its foreign employees. The amendment exempts all such salaries and wages from income tax.

The amendments also stated that all allowances and wages paid to Jordanian diplomats assigned abroad and all government officials and public organisation employees who work outside the country are exempted from income tax during their work abroad. However, income tax exemptions for government employees are only applied over their extra allowances and not their basic salary.

The amendments also stated

that all incomes and profits which is governed by bilateral income tax agreements between Jordan and another country are exempted from income tax as specified in these agreements.

The House, presided over by Speaker Akef Al Fayez and attended by Mr. Rifai and other cabinet ministers, decided to end the House's extraordinary sessions and Mr. Fayez announced that the House's third ordinary session will convene in October.

According to the Parliament constitutional law, the Lower House holds regular meetings for four months a year starting from October. However, if a Royal Decree requests the convening of extraordinary sessions the House has to meet to discuss extraordinary issues. The House was called to meet last May.

Mr. Rifai said Thursday that he would inform His Majesty King Hussein that the Lower House has requested the end of its extraordinary sessions. "But I would like the parliament files to record that the extraordinary session's termination was called for by the deputies themselves," he said.

Mr. Fayez requested Mr. Rifai to make sure that in the next ordinary session all cabinet ministers would be more punctual in attending House meetings. He also called on all deputies to respect the meeting's schedule.

Mr. Rifai promised that during the House's third ordinary session, all cabinet ministers will be more punctual; they would have more time to coordinate between their "ministerial duties and their parliament presence."

He also paid tribute to the "positive atmosphere which prevailed during the extraordinary meetings" of the House saying that they stemmed from "our belief in joint responsibility and the importance of working as one team."

Meanwhile, behind-the-scenes consultations have started in parliament to arrange for the election of a new speaker for the Lower House as the speaker is usually re-elected or elected following the start of the Lower House's ordinary sessions.

An advertisement on Friday in the three local Arabic newspapers by lawyer Bassam Al Jaussi said that he has decided to nominate himself as Lower House deputy member for the parliament's vacant seat representing the occupied West Bank districts of Jalqilah and Tulkarim. The seat fell vacant after the death in June of deputy Ahmad Sidqi Al Jabari.

USAID outlines details of \$250m assistance to Jordan

Aid package to include programme for imports, financing to establish development projects

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A total of \$160 million of the recently endorsed \$250 million three-year U.S. aid package to Jordan will be granted in the form of a Commodity Import Programme (CIP) and the other \$90 million is to be made available as project assistance contributions, a U.S. official said Thursday.

Mr. Gerald Gower, director of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) office in Jordan, told a press conference that the funds have been approved by Congress within a 1985 fiscal year supplementary budget act which was signed by U.S. President Reagan last week. He said the funds will be granted to Jordan in accordance with a fixed schedule for the next three years starting from 1985.

Allocations for the fiscal years 1985 and 1986 will be \$50 million in the form of CIP and \$30 million for project establishment, while \$60 million and \$30 million have been allocated for the 1987 fiscal year to respectively cover the CIP and project programmes, Mr. Gower said.

He said the Commodity Import Programme will enable both the public and private sectors to purchase equipment from the United States including industrial mac-

hinery, irrigation equipment, farm apparatus and medical instruments. An initial agreement for the CIP is expected to be signed by the end of September and the programme will be operational thereafter, Mr. Gower pointed out. "The proposed plan for the commodity programme has been submitted to Washington for review and approval and is expected to see the light by the end of September," Mr. Gower said.

The U.S. is in the process of drawing up a project under which approximately 40 compulsory level schools will be built in the Kingdom over the next three years and is also preparing up schemes for water supply and sewerage projects, transportation and other development sectors, he continued.

Development projects

According to Mr. Gower, there

are only three cities in Jordan which have sewerage systems and he said that the U.S. is currently contributing towards studies on sewerage networks for another 20 cities. These sewerage projects usually take five to six years to implement, he added.

Parallel U.S. assistance to Jordan is in the form of a long-term \$25 million loan to the Housing Bank to be raised through real estate concerns in the U.S. for a housing project in Jordan, Mr. Gower said. He added that terms for the 20-year loan have not yet been fixed but he said that he expects the agreement to be finalised within the next few months.

The \$250 million assistance is in addition to the regular U.S. programme of \$20 million per year in economic aid to Jordan. Prior to this year's aid package, the largest U.S. aid assistance to Jordan was in the region of \$150 million in 1977 while the total economic assistance to the Kingdom has been approximately \$1.5 billion since 1952, Mr. Gower said.

He also mentioned that USAID provides financial support for Jordan in the form of grants and long-term loans at low-interest and that part of these grants are allocated for technical assistance in which Jordanian researchers and scholars receive training in the United States.

West Germany presents anti-narcotic equipment to Public Security Department

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Public Security Department Thursday received a gift of equipment from the West German government which will be used to help the department combat the trafficking of narcotics and drugs.

The gift, comprising radio telephones, photography equipment, four specially equipped cars and two motorcycles, was presented to Public Security Director Abdul Hadi Al Majali by Deputy Director of the West German Interior Ministry Reinhard Rupprecht.

Mr. Rupprecht, who is currently on a visit to Jordan, met Mr. Abdul Hadi Al Majali and his aides and discussed cooperation in combating drug trafficking and other related crimes. Mr. Rupprecht said the gift was in recognition of the Public Security Department's efforts in countering drug trafficking, according to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra.

Mr. Rupprecht later toured the various sections of the department and was briefed on cases involving the smuggling of narcotics and

methods of thwarting such operations.

The gift is part of West Germany's technical assistance to Jordan, according to the West German embassy in Amman.

Earlier, Mr. Rupprecht was received at the army headquarters by Armed Forces Commander in Chief General Sbari Zaid Ibn Shaker. West German Ambassador to Jordan Herwig Bartels was present at the meeting. Mr. Rupprecht, who arrived here on Wednesday, is expected to leave for home on Sunday.

Crockett concludes visit

AMMAN (J.T.) — U.S. Congressman George Crockett concluded a week-long visit to Jordan and left Amman for home on Thursday. During the visit he was received in audience by His Majesty King Hussein and held talks with Jordanian officials on Middle East developments.

Before concluding his visit, Mr. Crockett told the Jordan Times that he believed the mission of U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy was not a failure. Mr. Crockett, who met with Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat on Tuesday, said the Palestinian leader told him that he was disappointed with Mr. Murphy's visit.

SSC to extend JD 7.1m loan for Housing Corporation projects

AMMAN (Petra) — The Social Security Corporation (SSC) is to grant the Housing Corporation JD 7,107,756 loan to help it implement four housing projects in the country in accordance with an agreement signed in Amman Thursday.

Under the agreement, which is backed by government guarantees, the SSC will extend the loan for the construction of 670 housing units in four regions: Ajlun, Ajlun, Sabab, and Irbid. Altogether, 300 units will be built in Ajlun, 174 in Sabab, 100 in Sabab and 96 units in Irbid.

The agreement was signed at the Housing Corporation by Min-

ister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan, in his capacity as chairman of the SSC's board, and Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Marwan Hmoud in his capacity as chairman of the Housing Corporation's board.

Following the signing ceremony, SSC Director General Mahdi Al Farhan said that the SSC had earlier financed the construction of the Prince Talal Ibn Mohammad Housing Estate at Ajlun. He said that the 252 housing units were built in Ajlun and distributed to beneficiaries in 1982.

They said the plane later landed safely at the main airport.

BA checks planes after disaster

(Continued from page 1)

which is fitted to most 737s and to all 727s and DC-9s.

The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) disclosed Thursday that it ordered Pratt and Whitney last month to undertake a safety check of the engine after identifying seven incidents related to it over four years.

The results of the review, completed this week, were due to be given to the FAA in the next few days.

There was a second full-scale alert at Manchester airport on

Friday following the Boeing 737 crash, the worst air disaster in Britain for 13 years.

Fire tenders were rushed onto the runway after the pilot of a Yugoslav plane radioed that an undercarriage light had failed.

Airport officials said the Inex Adria DC-9, bringing between 80 and 100 passengers home from a Yugoslav holiday, was diverted to a nearby airfield so that a visual check of the undercarriage could be made.

They said the plane later landed safely at the main airport.

Grundig expert ends lecture tour

A chief engineer at the West German Grundig factories has left Amman after conducting a series of lectures and seminars on electronics and electrical apparatus production in Jordan.

Mr. N. Boeckmann's visit came

upon request from the Grundig permanent agents in Amman (Messers Naim Snobar (Est 1939) in order to benefit from the latest developments in German technology.

FOR RENT

Unfurnished modern apartment consisting of two bedrooms, two bathrooms, spacious living-dining area and kitchen with central heating, telephone and big garden.

Location: Opposite the Jordan University, behind Royal Hotel

Please call 841386
9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Crown Prince condoles Al Badarin family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has delegated Director of the Badia Police Sheriff Fawwaz Al Zubei to convey his condolences to the Al Badarin family on the death of Ali Eid Al Roudan.

Decrees approve AFESD loans

AMMAN (Petra) — Two Royal Decrees have been issued approving two loan agreements between Jordan and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD). The first loan will be used to finance a project for the early detection of earthquakes while the second will be used to finance the Central Jordan Valley irrigation project.

Cabinet forms team to league meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet has formed Jordan's delegation to the 84th meeting of the Arab League council, due to open in Tunis on Sept. 9. The delegation will be led by Mr. Tayseer Toukan, the Foreign Ministry's secretary general.

Envoy to Switzerland presents credentials

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian Ambassador to Switzerland Adnan Bahjat Talhouni has presented his credentials to the Swiss government in Bern. The ambassador was received by the president of the Swiss Federation, and by Foreign Minister Pierre Oberholzer who is scheduled to pay a official visit to Jordan in the coming month.

British government assists CPF

AMMAN (J.T.) — British Ambassador to Jordan John Coles, accompanied by Mrs. Coles Thursday visited the King Hussein Medical Centre to present, as a gift from the British government, equipment to assist in the treatment of children of all ages handicapped by cerebral palsy. Among the items which were accepted on behalf of the Cerebral Palsy Foundation (CPF) by the director, Dr. Samira Baban, were wheelchairs, tricycles and other mobility aids. Her Majesty Queen Noor inaugurated the present offices in the Hussein Medical Centre in 1977. As well as the Amman centre, which has over 1700 registered patients, there are other centres in Zarqa and Irbid.

Delegation returns from transport talks

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian side to the board meetings of the Iraqi-Jordanian Land Transport Company which were held in Baghdad, returned to Amman Thursday. The company's director, general Eid Al Fayez said that the board took a number of decisions aimed at developing the company's work in the fields of land transport and shipping.

Ministry stops meat centre applications

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Supply will cease to accept any new applications for opening centres to distribute fresh or frozen Bulgarian meat as of today, a ministry official has announced.

Queen expecting child in February

(Continued from page 1)

concepts of common culture and goals, with the purpose of enhancing their belief in their nation."

The Queen also hosted 70 Arab children who arrived in Amman earlier in August representing 13 Arab countries.

Queen Noor's interest for children and family affairs has prompted her to launch projects which aim to raise mothers' awareness of health and child-care methods and to develop the means available for diagnosing children's social and psychological conditions.

Besides Queen's patronage of the National Committee for the Protection of the Environment

and her important initiatives to preserve Islamic architecture, Her Majesty has been an actual supporter of women's movements. Queen Noor holds the honorary presidency of the National General Federation of Jordanian Women (GNFW) and the Business and Professional Women's Club (BPWC).

In the course of several visits to the U.S., Queen Noor addressed American public opinion through a number of universities and intellectual institutions. Her Majesty explained the human dimension of the Palestinian people's plight under occupation.

Coalition threatened, Peres tells Likud

(Continued from page 1)

Thursday.

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin was quoted Friday as saying peace talks would not begin if Jordan insisted on having the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as a partner.

Jordan "must first realise (it) has to decide, like (the late) Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, to make peace with Israel in direct talks," Mr. Rabin was quoted as saying in an interview with the Jerusalem Post.

"But peace negotiations will not start if (Jordan) insists that the PLO must be a partner," he said, adding that Israel would reject any

"declared PLO member" as part of a joint Palestinian-Jordanian negotiating team.

Mr. Rabin said that U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy had failed on a recent trip to Amman to exclude PLO members from the proposed Jordanian-Palestinian delegation or gain assurances that talks between the United States and the mixed delegation would lead to Arab-Israeli negotiations.

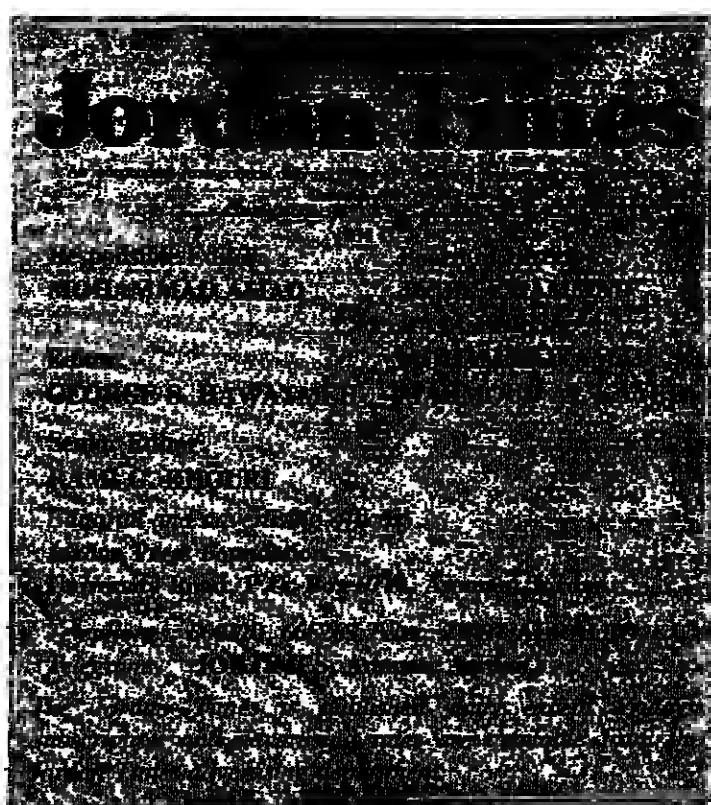
"Hence, he declined to meet with the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, a move which the United States had intended regardless of the formal opposition of the Israeli gov-

ernment to the process being launched in this manner," he said.

"We must unite our ranks and if need be go to the voters and fight an electoral battle for the nation's support," the Jerusalem Post daily quoted Mr. Shamir as saying.

He also accused Mr. Peres' party of "making every effort to cede large chunks of the land of Israel," which to hardliners includes the occupied West Bank.

The conflict was the worst since April when Mr. Peres threatened to resign because Likud objected to dispatching minister without portfolio Ezer Weizman for talks in Cairo.



ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Friday's

Al Ra'i: Stronger European peace role sought

THE EUROPEAN role in reactivating efforts and initiatives for peace in the Middle East was the focus of the talks which Luxembourg's Foreign Minister Jacques Poos had with Jordanian officials over the past three days. The minister expressed his country's support for the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement and promised to submit a report on his talks to the European Community meeting in the first half of next month.

Actually, the European role is not new, and we still remember the Venice Declaration on the Middle East. But the Arabs too have taken constructive steps towards peace. They issued a peace plan at Fez and presented the world with the Jordan-PLO accord which serves as a vehicle for implementing the Fez plan.

What is expected from European countries now is meaningful action to give momentum to the peace process and to influence the U.S. stand in this respect. The current European stand does not convince the Arab countries that the European Community is seriously pursuing efforts to achieve peace.

The Arabs expect the Europeans to take practical steps in this direction because of common interests with and mutual understanding.

European nations should find means of overcoming Israel's resistance to peace and should try to benefit from the present opportunity for the establishment of this peace.

Al Dustour: Libyan policies — difficult to understand

REPORTS FROM Libya about that country's expulsion of thousands of Arab workers reflect a total contradiction in the Libyan regime's policies towards Arab countries. The expulsion takes place at a time when the Libyan regime is bragging about its keenness on maintaining unity with other Arab countries in North Africa.

The expulsion of Arab workers indicates that the Libyan regime would never hesitate to strike at the interests of other Arab countries which this regime claims it is keen on maintaining good relations with.

The expulsion will no doubt contribute to further complicating matters for the other Arab countries and obstruct any genuine drive to bring the North African Arab states closer.

We deplore Libya's expulsion of Arab workers whatever the justifications behind that expulsion; we also call on Tunisia and other countries in North Africa to maintain self-restraint regarding Libya's provocative actions which are in reality an extension to the plots hatched by the enemies of the Arab nation.

Sawt Al Shaab: A Royal gesture

KING HUSSEIN has once again displayed his care for his people and his keenness in raising the level of their social and economic life. His directives to the government to improve services at the Badia (desert) and rural regions of Jordan, and to launch projects in these areas point to his concern over the well-being of his countrymen.

Exempting municipalities and village councils from paying the cost of street-lighting and lighting public places means reducing the burden on these councils with the purpose of enabling them to improve their public services to the local inhabitants.

His call on the government to reduce by 25 per cent the interest on loans obtained by individuals for housing purposes, reflects his concern to have the rural regions built up and developed.

King Hussein issued his directives on the occasion of Eid Al Adha which falls on Monday and this together with his donation of JD 100,000 to the charitable societies in the rural regions was meant as an example for all people to do good deeds to their countrymen and for the sake of achieving prosperity for the whole country.

Thursday's

Al Ra'i: Murphy's mission: Success or failure?

THE PROCESS of assessing U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy's recent mission in the Middle East has already begun at the White House, and it involves direct consultations with President Reagan. The assessment is clearly intended to measure the success, or failure, of the recent mission which entailed visits to Jordan, Israel and Egypt.

It is no secret that Jordan had made every possible effort to make Murphy's mission succeed, and was keen to provide the U.S. envoy with a peace plan which had won the blessing of Arab countries at the Fez summit.

In contrast, Israel had exerted every possible effort to make Murphy's mission fail. It rejected any involvement of the PLO in the peace process and totally refused the idea of an international conference to discuss the Middle East issue.

The U.S. administration's assessment of the situation ought to take into account all these facts if the current American efforts are to achieve success.

Al Dustour: Lebanon's tragedy horrifies.

WE ARE horrified and deeply distressed to witness another civil war flaring up in Lebanon, causing the death of innocent people and total destruction. It is really hard to believe that the warlords of Lebanon have not had enough of bloodshed and still order their militias to pursue their fighting which can lead nowhere and can only benefit the enemies of the Arab nation.

Instead of learning from past lessons and instead of launching a dialogue to reach reconciliation and peace, the warring factions are once again resorting to firepower to settle their disputes in another showdown of combat and more massacres.

The heavy losses of life and property inflicted upon the Lebanese people now is the price of rivalry between the warlords and between the ambitious armed men in the streets of Beirut and Tripoli.

Lebanon can never regain peace or stability unless the militias are removed from the streets once and for all, and the leaders of the political factions and sects meet together to find a peaceful and lasting solution to their problems.

GUEST COLUMN

Marxist Mullas or Muslim Kremlin?

By Shaker Abu Nasser

Many Iraqi civilians fell to their death early this summer.

Soviet missiles have been falling on cities in Iraq. They are some of the weapons Moscow has been providing Iran directly or indirectly, to fight a prolonged war, now almost five years old.

Neither side in the Iran-Iraq war has received enough Soviet weaponry to win, just enough to keep the conflict stalemated. From the Soviet perspective, according to military analysis, if the war ends by attrition rather than by a victory for either nation, both countries would credit Moscow for saving them from defeat.

Moscow signed an agreement with Tehran in May

1981 to provide military and technical equipment and Soviet advisers. In 1982, while curtailing arms shipments to Iraq, there was a \$3-billion arms agreement with Iran, contradiction in itself of the USSR's friendship treaty with Iraq.

Such a move was not a new Soviet tactic, as typified in the move Moscow made in 1977 when it dropped Somalia, with whom it had friendship treaty, in favour of Ethiopia, which offered the Soviet Union greater geopolitical advantages in the Horn of Africa.

Compared to Iraq, Iran has greater strategic significance for the USSR. The Islamic Republic, which

directly borders the Soviet Union, could give Moscow the long-coveted Russian goal of achieving direct access to the warm waters of the Gulf. Iran's natural gas and oil reserves are greater than Iraq's and could complement Russian oil resources which have started to show signs of depletion. Soviet production dropped significantly last year.

The Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's Islamic government frustrated Soviet ambitions by banning the Tudeh (Communist) Party and expelling Soviet diplomats. Moscow showed its displeasure by holding back the \$3-billion arms agreement, although it did sell Iran spare parts in 1982

for the Soviet-made Iraqi equipment captured on the battlefield.

While Moscow took care of Iraq's military needs, pro-Soviet states helped Iran maintain a balance of forces. North Korea provided 40 per cent of Iran's war needs in 1982, and about 150 Soviet-made T-62 tanks between 1982 and 1984, according to a report issued last year by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

Jane's Defence Weekly, the British publication that lists the military strengths of nations, notes that Libya, Syria, and North Korea, all of which have publicly expressed support for

Iran, have been supplied with "Scud" missiles by the Soviet Union.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz made a quick trip to Moscow after Baghdad experienced four explosions in six days in March, and another on March 24, all attributed to Iranian missiles that Aziz said, according to Arab diplomats, were given to Iran by Libya and Syria from their Soviet-supplied stockpiles.

TASS, the Soviet News Agency, reported that Aziz was told "Moscow wanted a negotiated solution to the war". Iran's deputy Foreign Minister Hossein Kazemi — Ardebili was given the same

message on April 5, according to TASS.

Reports in January 1984 indicated that Iraq had acquired a number of SS-12 Scaleboard missiles, whose effective range is between 700 and 800 kilometres, making Tehran vulnerable to attack.

In June '84, Moscow agreed to help Iran's power plants. This past July, Iran also announced that economic cooperation with the USSR would be revived.

Whatever the outcome of the Iran-Iraq war, Iraqi indebtedness for Soviet arms and Iranian gratitude for Soviet assistance will make Moscow the only winner.

Superpower participation — vital for Middle East peace

By Anwar Nashashibi

IN VIEW of the repeated failures over several decades to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict, it has become urgently necessary to convene an international conference to include all parties to the Middle East dispute, as well as the United States and the Soviet Union.

It is evident that the United States, for a number of reasons, is unable or unwilling to broker a peace that would be acceptable to all sides, especially a peace that would address the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. Without such recognition of the Palestinian question as the paramount issue in the conflict, the Middle East will be doomed to a repetition of its history since 1948, a history characterised by wars followed by attempts at peace that usually fell far short of their aim.

In fact, this cycle of war and peace-making began when the United Nations, seeking to end the struggle between Zionists and Palestinians over the territory of Palestine already dating back some 30 years, resolved in 1947 to partition the country between the two sides.

The result of the partition and the establishment of Israel was the 1948-49 war and several other rounds of fighting between Israel and the Arab countries, all of which ended in precarious truce arrangements.

In 1956 France plotted with Britain and Israel to attack Egypt soon after President Gamal Abdel Nasser nationalised the Suez Canal. The British and French wanted to topple Nasser while Israel's aim was to occupy and perhaps annex the Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip. The tripartite aggression, known as the Suez War, failed, and Israel was forced to withdraw from the Sinai and Gaza under pressure from President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The next war, in June of 1967,

resulted in Israel occupying the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Sinai Peninsula and Syria's Golan Heights. The conflict was followed by attempts to achieve a permanent peace and the United States became involved, because, among other reasons, it had become a major supplier of weapons and financial aid to Israel, while the Soviet Union was helping some of the Arab countries involved in the conflict. It was also realised that the 1967 war was a link in a chain of events that were endangering world peace by threatening a confrontation between the two superpowers in the Middle East.

With that in mind, U.S. Secretary of State William F. Rogers, on October 28, 1969, sent the Soviet Union a proposal for peace in the region. Rogers presented his peace plan on December 18, 1968, at a four power meeting at the United Nations, attended by the U.S., the Soviet Union, Britain and France.

The so-called Rogers Plan involved a pull-back of Israeli forces to the 1967 borders and the return of the Palestinian refugees to their homes. But the Rogers proposal was rejected out of hand by Israel. Prime Minister Golda Meir told a New York Times correspondent at the time: "Israel won't accept this... After all that has happened (meaning the wars with the Arabs) we are asked... to start all over again, as though it were 1948." She thus betrayed the fact that Israel's acceptance of the territory allotted to it under the U.N. partition plan was meant only to gain a bridgehead from which wars of expansion would be launched later. And her deputy, Yigal Allon, told the news magazine Time that the Rogers Plan was "an invitation for another war, because it will create new illusions, among the Arabs of prospects of

victory."

In fact, however, Israel's rejection of secretary Rogers' proposals did bring on another war in October of 1973, when Egypt and Syria, intent on regaining the territories occupied by Israel in 1967, launched attacks in the Suez Canal and Golan Heights sectors. The 1973 war, during which Egypt and Syria initially scored spectacular successes, shattered the myth of Israel's military invincibility. Israel was saved from a serious setback by the massive airlift of U.S. weapons and supplies ordered by President Richard M. Nixon.

Still conscious of the fact that the future may well hold increasing danger to world peace and the security of the region, the United States decided that it was time to act on U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, both of which asked Israel to withdraw from occupied Arab areas in return for negotiations with the Arabs with a view to establishing "a just and lasting peace in which every state in the area can live in security".

The United States found it necessary, therefore, to collaborate with the Soviet Union in the revived peace process. Under the joint chairmanship of the two superpowers, the Geneva Conference on Peace in the Middle East was convened on December 21, 1973. It was not long, however, before this particular attempt at peace-making came to grief, owing mainly to strong Israeli opposition and to the determination of Secretary of State Henry Kissinger to exclude the Soviets from any meaningful role in the peace process. Instead of working for a comprehensive peace settlement, Kissinger preferred step-by-step diplomacy, focusing on military fronts rather than borders, security measures and other aspects

of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Kissinger's endeavours, although successful in achieving military disengagement on the Egyptian and Syrian fronts, failed to resolve larger issues and, in fact, produced two adverse results. They triggered a new arms race between Israel and some Arab countries that involved both the U.S. and the Soviet Union. They also caused Kissinger to promise Israel that the United States would neither recognise nor negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organisation until the latter recognised Israel. This astonishing commitment, which later became a fixed U.S. doctrine, excluded from the peace process one of the principal parties to the conflict and the sole representative of the Palestinians, Kissinger's promise in itself became a new stumbling block in the path of peace in the Middle East.

When President Jimmy Carter came to office early in 1977, his secretary of state, Cyrus Vance, aware of the reality of the Soviet role in the region, renewed attempts to reconvene the Geneva Conference and, thus, give Moscow a role in the peace process. The result was the "Joint Statement" issued by the United States and the Soviet Union on October 1, 1977, expressing the belief of the two governments that "the only right and effective way for achieving a fundamental solution to all aspects of the Middle East problem in its entirety is negotiations within the framework of the Geneva Peace Conference, especially convened for these purposes, with participation in all work of the representatives of all the parties involved in the conflict, including those of the Palestinian people, and legal and contractual formalisation of the decisions reached at the conference."

While the PLO expressed rea-

diness to participate in the conference, Israel and its powerful supporters in the United States angrily denounced the Carter administration initiative. As a result of the totally negative Israeli attitude, the U.S. plan was quickly abandoned.

Israel had other plans for the Palestinians and for neighbouring Lebanon, which hosted not only the PLO but close to half a million Palestinian refugees. These plans were implemented when the government of Menachem Begin launched an all-out war against Lebanon and the Palestinians there in June of 1982. The massive, greatly destructive Israeli invasion of Lebanon, planned and led by Ariel Sharon, was clearly meant to blot out, once and for all, the Palestinian factor in the Israeli-Palestinian equation and, at the same time, to reshape Lebanon in accordance with Israeli interests.

Few disagree today that, apart from the disruption of the PLO's military base in Lebanon, the Israeli invasion and subsequent occupation of nearly a third of the country were dismal failures. Israel sustained thousands of casualties between dead and wounded, spent more than three billion dollars, came under universal censure for the enormous loss of life and destruction it inflicted on Lebanon and the Palestinians and had to fight a continuous rearguard battle while it withdrew its forces in 1985.

But, inasmuch as Israel, with the assistance of the U.S., had become more powerful than all the Arab countries combined, Begin and Sharon believed that they could crush the PLO and nullify Palestinian resistance in the occupied West Bank and Gaza. However, the Palestinians survived all these Israeli designs.

They have emerged from the 1982 war numerically, materially and intellectually as strong as ever.

However tragic and dim the situation may now seem after five major Arab-Israeli wars, there is still hope for peace. If for no other reason than that the sequence of wars and destruction without any clear outcome has had a sobering effect even on militant Israelis. The Lebanon invasion and occupation have exposed the limits of Israel's military power, and those who were dreaming of a Greater Israel stretching from the Nile to the Euphrates began to realise that such ambitions could never be realised.

That is why the time is ripe for convening an international conference on peace in the Middle East, whether in the format of the Geneva Conference or with the participation of all the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, and of course all the parties to the conflict. It is by now obvious that the Soviet Union is essential to the peace process, because both Washington and Moscow will be called upon to provide guarantees for implementation of the provisions of a settlement.

Such an international conference should deal with every aspect of the Arab-Israeli conflict, especially Palestinian rights. It is the only answer to the accumulating problems of the Middle East, problems which if left without solutions could spell disaster for the region and the rest of the world.

Anwar Nashashibi, an international lawyer, writes frequently on Middle East issues. He wrote the above article for the U.S.-based Arab Perspective June-July 1985 issue.

Massacres, real and invented, fuel Sri Lankan bloodshedBy Jeremy Clift
Reporter

COLOMBO — Tension had been mounting in the Vavuniya district of northern Sri Lanka for several weeks, but nothing could have prepared the local Tamil population for the sudden bout of blood-letting last Friday.

Local residents and Asian diplomats now say at least 150 people were killed when government troops went on a rampage, shunting and setting fire to houses in the area around Vavuniya, 255 kilometres (160 miles) north of Colombo.

The orgy of killing followed the explosion of a landmine on a road used by Tamil separatist guerrillas.

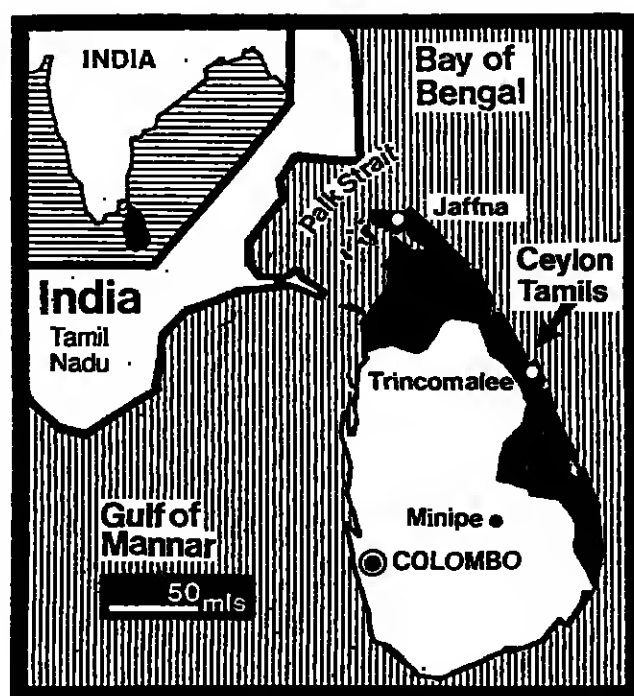
The government has consistently denied any massacre took place, despite growing evidence from witnesses who said that bodies were burnt and left unburied in the fields and woods.

Information Minister Anandattasa de Alwis had admitted on July 19 people were killed and five wounded in the landmine explosion.

The clear disparity has underlined the information gap in a country where the rumours can be as powerful as guns.

Tamil guerrilla organisations based in the south Indian city of Madras have been quick to fill the information vacuum, issuing claims of new massacres in other parts of the country.

Though there are daily ethnic killings there is little evidence to support allegations of a new massacre, but diplomats say official denials may carry little weight because the government attempted to cover up the events in



Vavuniya.

Across the Indian subcontinent, casualty figures in any conflict can often become grossly exaggerated and this appears to have been what happened with some Tamil guerrilla claims.

Residents in the eastern coastal town of Trincomalee said an allegation by the Eelam National Liberation Front (ENLF), an alliance of four major Tamil separatist groups, that 250 people were gunned down near there last Saturday was baseless.

The government claims that Tamil militants are inventing atrocity stories as part of a propaganda war to wreck peace talks

between separatists and Sri Lankan officials in the Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan.

"What is certain is that the government here has lost the information initiative to the guerrillas," said one Western diplomat. "Even information about what is going on at the peace talks comes first from the guerrillas."

Although censorship has been dropped, there is still considerable government supervision of the Sri Lankan press, according to diplomats and journalists.

Sri Lankan papers have only alluded to the Vavuniya massacre and have given no figures for the total number killed.

"The mass media of this country, particularly the English and Sinhalese press, radio and television are in the hands of the government and are for the majority (Sinhalese) community," said the independent Tamil daily Virakesari in an editorial on Tuesday.

It accused the press of distorting what was going on in Tamil areas, playing up incidents in which Sinhalese were attacked and branding the separatist guerrillas as terrorists.

Information Minister de Alwis has lashed out at the foreign media, accusing it of "one-eyed reporting" about the ethnic bloodshed.

"They seem hell-bent on mis-reporting the facts and have continued to follow this policy," he told a press conference after several foreign newspapers and radio stations carried reports of the events at Vavuniya.

The government hopes to limit the impact of clashes by playing down the killings, but rumours of massacres can often trigger fresh violence even if the reports are incorrect.

This has led to charges that the government only highlights events in which Sinhalese are killed and does not provide adequate protection for ordinary Tamil villagers.

Sri Lanka has a population of around 16 million. The majority are Sinhalese Buddhists, with 2.5 million Tamils concentrated in the north and east of the country.

Many Tamils do not want independence. But Tamil leaders say that even those who do not support the guerrillas have been driven towards them by the action of security forces, who have attacked and burnt Tamil villages.

Gandhi's bid for peace threatenedBy Brian Williams
Reporter

NEW DELHI — The assassination by Sikh extremists of moderate Sikh leader Harchand Singh Longowal has threatened to unravel a bold bid for peace in the Punjab by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Only on July 24 Mr. Gandhi had signed an accord with the moderate Sikh, shot in Punjab on Tuesday.

The agreement met some Sikh demands for autonomy. It seemed to herald progress towards ending the Punjab troubles which nine months ago claimed the life of Mr. Gandhi's mother, Indira Gandhi, assassinated by Sikh bodyguards.

Renewed violence last weekend in the island nation of Sri Lanka, India's southern neighbour, meanwhile threw into jeopardy another Gandhi-backed peace bid. New clashes there broke up talks between Tamil separatists and the Sri Lankan government.

Mr. Gandhi, 41 on last Tuesday and India's youngest leader, when in an independence day speech on August 15 was confidently proclaiming a bright future, is now under siege.

As the cycle of violence was renewed both in Punjab and Sri Lanka, political foes were poised to renew criticism that he is "a young man in a hurry" whose dazzling initiatives for peace with separatists in the sub-continent lacked foundation.

The Longowal shooting threw doubt on whether promised state elections in Punjab next month could be held. It was also likely to divert Mr. Gandhi's attention from trying to rescue the Sri Lanka peace talks.

The September 22 Punjab state election would choose a state admin-



istration and thereby end direct rule of Punjab by the federal government in New Delhi.

It was to have been final proof that Sikh extremists were on the run and peace was restored to the north Indian state.

Mr. Gandhi's critics question that.

Longowal and most opposition political parties called the poll premature and said security was not yet assured.

The Statesman newspaper said last week Mr. Gandhi and his aides were trying for dazzling triumphs instead of listening to the pulse of the nation.

In similar vein, some Tamil separatists complained they were being forced into negotiating with the Sri Lankan government when the time was not right because Colombo believed it could still win a military victory.

On last weekend the separatists, who have offices in India, and the Sri Lankan government traded charges of massacres of civilians, at least temporarily finding their talks in the Bhutan capital, Thimphu.

A feast of films for the Eid

By J.H. Boteler

I don't want to browbeat anyone, but you must pay attention and concentrate. If you want to win a mobile home, that is (or even a door, or a set of matching luggage). Because this Monday, the 26th, is the closing date for all aspiring sleuths to get their entries in to JTV, in the great "Murder in Space" competition. Memories a bit hazy, are they? OK, then we will recap. An International Space Mission is returning home from Mars, and after a long silence, due to some sort of malfunction, practically the first communication received at mission control is the breezy assurance: "It looks like smooth sailing from here on in". Hal! Famous last words. No sooner are they said, than the crew start dying like flies. The first to shuffle off this mortal coil is, or rather was, Mrs. Olga Denerenko, of the USSR. During the mission, her husband has been elected as commissioner to the Politburo. It is discovered that she is two-months pregnant, (five months into the mission), and that nearly every other member of the crew has reason to kill her. The autopsy reveals that the probable cause of death was asphyxiation, and a white fibre — "probably animal-based" — is discovered in one of her nostrils. Captain Neal Braddock is a one-time lover of hers from their halcyon student days in London and, as she informed him, is only concerned with his career. A definite threat to Braddock's career is Colonel Andrei Kalsinov, also of the USSR. He questions Braddock's handling of the mission, accuses the American of endangering the safety of the crew, and is discovered early on going through his (Braddock's) private papers. Apart from anything else, it is suggested that Kalsinov is another of Olga's lovers; furthermore he was recently suspected by the KGB of being a possible defector; but, we are informed, the KGB "neutralised" this threat. Incidentally, he was very aware to any autopsy being performed on Olga's body. He was also being blackmailed by her to provide her with an abortion.

The second death to occur is that of the Canadian, Guy Sterling. At the time of his death he is, shall we say, on very friendly terms with Miss Dominica Mastrelli, (Italy). It is discovered that Miss Mastrelli's former lover committed suicide after a scientific paper he was working on was stolen by Olga Denerenko and published under her name. Miss Mastrelli has joined the mission with the sole aim of exposing the person "who stole her life". She has already inflicted some revenge on Miss Denerenko by stealing Guy Sterling from her earlier in the mission. In fact, it would seem that Guy is in the way of being a veritable Casanova because, despite having a very pregnant wife at home, he has been chatting up all the girls on the spacecraft and claiming to have had a vasectomy. Who says so? Why, Miss Pamela Cooper, (English) says so. She is the assistant, and devoted admirer, of Dr. Philippe Berdoux, (France), and it is their autopsy that reveals that Guy Sterling died through injecting a lethal dose of cyanide which had been substituted for his insulin. Well, not cyanide exactly, but some grisly compound which the Russians are issued with as suicide capsules. To simplify matters, Dr. Berdoux is practically blind due to tumours in the eye, (he got on the mission by falsifying his medical results), practically crippled by arthritis and generally in very bad shape.

Murder number three is that of the German (East) Kurt Steiner. He is the mountaineering expert of the mission, a cynical, sarcastic and thoroughly oafy individual, who is found sprawled in his cabin with his lucky white scarf, (knitted by his mother), wound round his neck. "Strangled", announces Capt. Braddock, "and by a man because of the strength required". This diagnosis is not confirmed, however, due to subsequent events, which I will come to. On his own admission Kurt has spent a good deal of time flirting with Olga Denerenko during the mission but only, he assures us, in order to perfect his cover. Because he is really the homosexual lover of the last member of this happy bunch of space-travellers, the American David Tremayne. David is very worried that the investigation into the various murders will reveal his guilty secret. He is reassured by Kurt that he (Kurt) will go to any lengths to protect his own career and reputation. Young David has asked his wife for a quiet and discreet divorce, but she is determined to fight to keep him.

Shortly after the discovery of Steiner's corpse, Colonel Kalsinov is given a cryptic message by the Russian ambassador at Mission Control, (Commissar Deoerenko, having been informed of the full facts of his wife's condition, has ordered the ambassador to prevent her body at all costs from falling into the hands of the Americans). The ambassador tells Kalsinov that the deposed Russian Premier sends Kalsinov his warmest personal greetings. Kalsinov ponders this, and then rushes off to his cabin, and pulls a box out of his holdall. Inside the box there is a machine-pistol. A knock on the door. "Who is it?", shouts Kalsinov. No answer. "Go away!" bellows the Russian. Back on the flight deck, Braddock is discussing the possibility that the cryptic message received by Kalsinov was a code-word instructing him to take over command of the ship, when there is a mighty explosion. He rushes back to the cabin area, to be met by Miss Cooper, supporting a dazed and bloody Dr. Berdoux. "Kalsinov is dead", she explains, "there's nothing left. Dr. Berdoux was in the next cabin and was injured in the blast". Back to the control cabin. Separation from the mother ship is completed, (the bodies have to be left behind because of the shortage of time available) and, with seconds to spare, the five remaining crew-members re-enter earth's atmosphere.

All crystal clear and simple, wouldn't you agree? No, I thought not. If you have a steady hand and a lot of patience, you could out all the different facts from the page, stick them on cardboard, and rearrange them in a different order. (The scramble version is available if you send in sufficient funds and a dozen box-tops). There all you have to do is to write the names of the four victims, (Denerenko, Sterling, Steiner and Kalsinov) on a piece of paper and beside each say (1), who killed each one, and (2), how. Send your answers to: JTV, Murder in Space Competition, P.O. Box 1041. Don't forget to add your name and address, and start extending the garage.

Well, that's that. Now it's time to review the coming week and I am pleased to inform you that to celebrate the feast of Eid Al Adha JTV have come up trumps with a wide and varied selection of feature films and other special programmes. It's probably best to take it day by day so first, tonight, we have "Vietnam" at 8:30. This is getting too sordid and depressing and this is not the time to dwell on such matters so we will move straight onto "Live Aid" at 9:10 (for thereabouts). Last week we had a big chunk of Elton John and various friends, and also Madonna, who achieved the impossible last week and actually managed to raise the temperature. While it would seem that the night is falling fast on the London end of the concert, there is still a fair amount of entertainment to come from there, most notably David Bowie and the Great Macca (Paul McCartney) himself. And there's a whole host of goodies warming up in Philadelphia. Then, at 10:15, there is the first of the week's feature films, this one an historical drama entitled "Anne of the Thousand Days". A big star cast includes Richard Burton as big, bad, and unpredictable King Henry VIII, who has gone down in history as the man who, upon being asked by his wife whether he would be long at the office, replied: "Don't worry dear, I won't keep you long". The beautiful Genevieve Bujold is Anne Bolyn, the lady of the title, and Irene Papas, Michael Hordern and Anthony Quayle help out. While presenting a rather strange and pretentious version of one of the more sanguinary episodes in English history, it is a very colourful, spectacular and on the whole enjoyable production, with many high points.

Tomorrow, (Sunday), may not have a feature film, but it has plenty of promise. From "Rhodes" at 8:30 we get an episode entitled "Nick Lobo, Superstar" with Rhodes and her sister trying to help the said Nick to achieve his dreams. Well, why not, it is a holiday after all. The documentary at 9:10 is called "The People's Medicine" and investigates the various alternative medicines practised in China, such as acupuncture, anaesthesia, and limb grafts. Limb grafts? Oh, dear, perhaps we had better move on, to 10:15, and "Love Boat", and part two of last week's episode, all about filming a rock and roll spectacular on the fabled ship of dreams. Speaking of dreams, last Sunday was so cloyingly and insufferably hot that my brain short-circuited and I experienced a waking nightmare, where I imagined that the crew of the Love Boat kept on breaking out into song and dance routines, quite literally at the drop of a soup-bowl. Absolutely ridiculous. I know, but that's the weather for you. Gofer and Co. are far too sensible to indulge in such frivolous pursuits. Aren't they?

Monday has "Who's the Boss?" at 8:30, and a new boyfriend for Angela who turns out to be a snake-in-the-grass, or a wolf, or something, anyway, not quite "skin deep" is at 9:10, and poor old Grandad getting shunted around amongst his daughters. The one who likes him is agonising over the offer of a job in the local Communist-office, whilst the other, who refuses to speak to him, is about to receive a couple of nasty shocks about her son. Serve her right too. We are thankfully given a rest from the vicious brutality of "Widows" at 10:15, which is replaced by a feature film. There's still plenty of brutality, but also a great deal of humour, in "For a Few Dollars More", the second of the Sergio Leone "Spaghetti Westerns" of the sixties. Clint Eastwood once again stars as that eminently clubbable and witty raconteur and voluble after-dinner-speaker: "The man with no name", while Lee Van Cleef strides jauntily about as "The man in the blackrock coat". Both gentlemen earn their living as Bounty Hunters, apprehending villains and ensuring that the public is safe from these evil men. (i.e. they kill them). After competing with each other over which one can shoot straight, which one can speak most effectively whilst smoking, (cigar v. pipe), and declaring a draw, they team up and go after El Brutto, the arch-baddie, and his gang. Musical bow-watches play a deeply symbolic role and Clint has a last-minute problem with his ar-



In search of a mobile home—"Murder in Space"

themic before the proceedings are concluded to the satisfaction of all, (all except El Brutto and his gang, of course).

Tuesday has "Kate and Allie" at 8:30, "For the Term of His Natural Life" at 9:10, where our hero discovers the manifold joys of the Australian penal colony system, and at 10:15, feature film number three, "How to Break up a Happy Divorce" which is, unfortunately, all I can tell you about it, but, if it comes from the same stable as "How to Murder Your Wife", should be very funny indeed.

So, on to Wednesday, and a real super-duper-music-all-the-way night, "Three's Company" at 8:30 is last week's postponed episode "Some of That Jazz" and at 9:10 there is a "Varieties" special, featuring those beloved old trouper, "Cliff Richard and the Shadows". Oh, bliss, I cut my milk teeth on this lot, and whilst some rock stars just fade away, Cliff and Co. just get better and better. Admittedly only half the original Shadows are still around, but then Hank B. Marvin, the grinning and bespectacled guitar virtuoso and Bruce Welch — Mr. Solid — are the Shadows. Then, at 10:15, the final film of the week: "West Side Story". Now, I have heard it said, by those who saw the original stage show, that this is but a pale copy, but few of us are that old, and anything starring Natalie Wood can't be half bad. Add to that a great score, (courtesy of Leonard Bernstein), some stunning choreographed numbers featuring the Sharks and the Jets, then this musical version of "Romeo and Juliet" should send us to bed with feet tapping.

On Thursday, "No Place Like Home" is beginning to resemble a re-working of the trials of job, because this week poor old Arthur has to face the prospect of redundancy. Are his family and neighbours depressed? Not a bit of it. They immediately work out how to spend his severance pay. Kind souls. The 9.10 slot sees the first episode of a new six-week series, "Flying Doctors". In the rugged inhospitable Australian outback two oen recruits arrive at a Royal Flying Doctor Service base. One is Tom Callaghan, the other is Liz Drevor. Are they old, ugly, incredibly boring, and hating each others guts? Or are they young, handsome, magnetic, and irresistibly drawn to each other? (Correct answers to this question will not result in a mobile home). 10:15 sees, not another feature film, but "Fox's Mystery Theatre", which is long enough to be almost as good as, a fable of our times, as the NATO means pull down a church to build a new base, and no-one had the sense to consult those already in residence: The ghosts and spirits.

"Jill's Decision" is this week's quandary for "Charles in Charge" on Friday at 8:30, and unexpected news means a sudden change of plan for Magic and Mrs. Van Meyer in "Tenko" at 9:10, and with "MacGruder and Lord" once again tackling the mean streets in their taciturn fashion, we should all be in a suitably sober and serious frame of mind to return to work on Saturday morning. Ah, well, it was fun while it lasted. So, get those competition answers in, and have a very happy and relaxing holiday.

Millions of children live in the streets

By Claude Fillet
Reuter

GENEVA — Whether runaways, school drop-outs or abandoned, children for whom the street is home can be numbered by the tens of millions.

"Their number seems to rise as countries become more and more urbanised, and big cities like Calcutta, Nairobi, Marseilles, New York and Bogota are monuments to their plight," according to a United Nations report just released.

In groups of three, five or 10, they often form closely-knit families, feeling closer to street siblings than to their own brothers and sisters in their former homes. Peter Tacon, of the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) told Reuters in an interview.

Mr. Tacon, who deals with the organisation's programmes for street children, said youngsters of up to 18 years living a street life could be roughly estimated at 90 million in "Third World" nations, with another 10 million in industrial countries.

The problem seems greatest in

South America. UNICEF quoted a report from Brazil that put the number of street children there as high as a staggering 30 million.

UNICEF included children on the streets but those who were living entirely cut off from home.

"They often form groups which become so cohesive they function like mobile mini-societies, providing members with a security and solidarity not experienced before," Mr. Tacon said.

He cited the example of Rio de Janeiro, where street children are "everywhere, in the parks in gangs, the boulevards as snack vendors, and every night as something under a piece of cardboard or plastic wrapping huddled asleep on the beaches."

A large majority are on the street to work and earn a little money to help support their families. But many are left to survive on their own with no protection after fleeing violence in slum homes or being kicked out or abandoned by adults no longer able to support them.

Mr. Tacon cited recession and

migration to cities as the main reasons why South America was becoming "the spawning ground for the Oliver Twists of the 20th century" — a reference to the orphan child in Charles Dickens' 19th-century tale of urban poverty.

"The lights of big cities send the poor scurrying for the chance to live a decent life ... migrating in the thousands from country to city," Mr. Tacon says.

Children are mostly abandoned in cities, where ties between the uprooted families with their communities are broken.

Rural families arriving in urban areas usually live in extreme slum poverty and begin to disintegrate when the fathers, finding no jobs, leave to seek a new life elsewhere.

Mr. Tacon, a Canadian who brought up six street children in addition to his own three, says: "It is not so much the street that is bad but the dangers, abuses and exploitation which children encounter there."

"For years, they live with the feeling of being trapped. Where else is there to go?"

The children earn some money from small jobs such as collecting

paper, washing cars or shining shoes, or turn to other means of survival including begging and prostitution.

Some seek drug-induced escape. Youngsters living in the streets of South American cities often sniff cheap solvents such as shoe-maker's glue, a big business for older street dwellers who sell it packaged for easy concealment in a food jar or fruit juice can.

Many children suffer from malnutrition and are exposed to diseases. With no access to education they are condemned to lifelong poverty.

UNICEF helps set up a number of programmes, particularly in Brazil, whereby street educators try to combine schooling with part-time work. These include workshops in weaving, ceramics, leatherworks and other crafts.

In Cachoeira Paulista, a Brazilian city of 30,000 with 2,300 street children, youngsters themselves are involved in running a programme of remunerative activities, including glass work, band-painting linen and T-shirts, carpentry and pig-breeding.

China's currency blackmarket blossoms

By Graham Farnshaw
Reuter

PEKING — On a busy Peking street, a young man sidles up to a foreign tourist and mutters the time-honoured international password to the blackmarket: "Change money?"

The tourist is surprised — this is not what he had heard about China. And the face is wrong too — the young man offering a good exchange rate looks out of place amongst the crowds of Chinese swirling along the pavement.

The young man is in fact not an ethnic Chinese. China's currency blackmarket in cities such as Peking and Shanghai seems to be dominated by Uighurs, central Asian traders from China's far northwestern province of Xinjiang.

The Uighurs may be high-profile, but they are only the tip of a large and growing business in which, the authorities admit, the main operators are state corporations and officials buying and selling foreign exchange for their own uses.

The biggest case so far revealed

by the official press came to light last month. Officials on the South China Island of Hainan bought \$570 million to finance imports of cars and other consumer goods for resale on the blackmarket.

The Uighur dealers cannot compete with such astronomical sums, even though one Uighur said they often act as agents for state enterprises.

All private foreign currency dealings are illegal in China and all buying, selling and exchange of foreign currency are supposed to be conducted by the Bank of China.

Local Chinese are also theoretically forbidden except in certain cases to possess the foreign exchange certificates introduced in 1980 for use by foreigners in China.

But issuing regulations has proved to be easier than controlling the trade. The foreign exchange certificates now circulate widely among locals, especially in southern China, and there appears to be little the authorities can do about it.

The highly-prized certificates can be exchanged on the black-

market at rates of up to two-for-one for the regular Chinese currency, the renminbi, nominally valued at par with the certificates.

The official exchange rate is about 2.9 renminbi to the U.S. dollar. But an official newspaper last month reported a deal in which officials paid 5.15 to the dollar on the blackmarket.

Reports of exchange rates of up to eight renminbi to the dollar are sometimes heard.

"Blackmarket foreign currency dealings affect the stability of the foreign exchange rates posted by the state, disrupt financial order, damage the reputation of the renminbi and have a bad political influence," the official Workers' daily said.

More important for the present administration of leader Deng Xiaoping is that the trade, according to the Workers' daily, "disrupts the smooth implementation of economic reforms."

In other words, the blossoming of the blackmarket, a direct result of Deng's open-door economic policies, has provided excellent ammunition for conservative critics.

Officials sometimes dabble in illegal currency dealings for personal gain, but more often they do it to help their companies get round state restrictions on the use of foreign exchange.

China's foreign exchange reserves have fallen rapidly over the past year, which has made it ever more difficult for official enterprises to get permission for purchases or projects involving foreign exchange.

And the tougher it is to get money through official channels, the greater the temptation to turn to the blackmarket.

One foreign banker gave an example of a Chinese corporation which negotiated a joint venture with a foreign firm that required the Chinese side to provide a sum of foreign exchange.

The corporation's officials said they did not have enough foreign currency. But they knew of another state-run company which had foreign exchange to sell — at a price.

They proposed buying it. "Technically, this is illegal, but what can you do?" the banker said.



LIVELY PEOPLE — Palestinians at a refugee camp in Lebanon work on rebuilding their war-devastated homes. The United Nations Works and Relief Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) provides engineers, technical support and financial aid to families who lost their homes (UNRWA photo)

Haj caravans — a colourful parade of air-conditioned buses

By Rory Channing
Reuter

KUWAIT — Hardy camels have given way to jet planes and modern air-conditioned buses as means for Kuwaitis to make the Muslims' annual Haj pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia.

Salam Al Najadi, on his 48th haj, set off this month in the comfort of one of dozens of colourful motorised convoys — a far cry from the days when he did the trip seven times by camel.

Then, pilgrims — known as "hajis" — faced a gruelling trek in scorching heat across 1,300 kilometres (700 miles) of hostile desert terrain to reach Mecca, Islam's spiritual capital.

"The pilgrimage (round) trip was three months and 10 days long," recalled Saoud Al Mani, a convoy leader for over 50 years, in an account last year of his experiences.

Caravans would travel in groups of around 500 hajis, with men, each having their own camel while

women rode in pairs.

Thousands of Kuwaitis, along with Muslims from as far away as China and Nigeria, now jet into the spectacular new Haj terminal at King Abdul Aziz international airport in Jeddah.

But most pilgrims from Kuwait, who include a wide range of Arab and Asian expatriates, travel overland on a round trip that now takes only three weeks.

Before the five-year-old Gulf war between Iraq and Iran, Kuwait was a busy transit centre for tens of thousands of pilgrims from those and other countries north of the Gulf.

Transit travellers now face tough security, however, following a spate of recent bombings in Kuwait.

Over 2,000 vehicles in some 60 convoys, each carrying 150 to 300 people, streamed out of Kuwait this month on the pilgrimage which all Muslims are encouraged to do at least once in their lifetime.

A typical modern-day caravan consists of air-conditioned buses,

and trucks to carry tents, luggage and food provisions, including sheep to be slaughtered along the way.

They are accompanied by heavily-manned ambulances and 2,000 gallon water-tankers, invariably draped with huge pots, pans and kettles needed for meals and refreshments along the way.

After leaving Kuwait, the pilgrims travel first to the Saudi city of Medina where they visit the tomb of Prophet Mohammed and attend prayers in the Prophet's mosque.

They then go on to Mecca for the climax of the Haj, prayers at the grand mosque and a procession around Islam's holiest shrine, the Kaaba which contains the Black Stone, which all Muslims face when they pray.

Throughout the Haj, regardless of station as royalty or laymen, all pilgrims dress alike in seamless robes reflecting equality before Allah. Women wear ground-length white robes and head scarves.



SOLAR ENERGY POWER — This sun-run Mercedes was built by Daimler-Benz apprentices in Stuttgart, West Germany. The car was the first past the chequered flag in the Swiss Tour de Sol race for solar-powered vehicles from Lake Constance to Lake Geneva. The car's top speed was 71 kph, its solar panels develop 480 Watts. It has a three-speed gearbox, an all-plastic body, single-wheel suspension, a twin-circuit hydraulic brake system and four disc brakes (DAd photo)

Becker betters performance Slaney breaks record as stars stumble

KINGS ISLAND, Ohio (R) — Boris Becker battled back after a first-set loss to avoid the fate of ousted seeds Yannick Noah and Henrik Sundstrom at the Kings Island Grand Prix tennis tournament.

The fourth-seeded West German, nursing a slight injury in his right side, overcame unseeded American John Sadri 4-6, 6-1, 6-4 to advance to the quarterfinals.

France's Noah, the third seed, and eighth-seeded Sundstrom of Sweden were not so fortunate. Noah was beaten by Tim Wilkison 6-3, 6-7, 6-3 and Sundstrom was eliminated by Hank Peister 6-0, 6-1.

Also advancing in third-round play were four Swedes, led by top seed Mats Wilander. Joining Wilander in the quarterfinals were Anders Jarryd, the second seed, the fifth-seeded Stefan Edberg and sixth seed Joakim Nystrom.

Becker, whose service was broken at 3-3 in losing the first set,

played better as the match progressed.

"I am a little injured in my right side and I do not serve so well until I warm it up," Becker said. "In the beginning, it was very cold, but once it warmed up in the second and third sets I was able to serve harder."

After scoring only three aces in the first set, the Wimbledon champion aces Sadri six times in the second set as he began to find the mark.

The two players exchanged breaks in the third set, putting the match even at 4-4. In the ninth game, Sadri lost his serve after he was up 30-15, double faulting twice and dumping a forehand volley into the net.

"Even after I lost the first set, I thought always I had a good chance to beat him," Becker said. "I was always up, thinking I would beat him. My returns are better than his and I was always putting pressure on him. He was always serving at 30-all and deuce, so he had to take some risks."

Becker forces no problem with his side injury.

"Maybe it is the age. I can't wait until Sunday to play in the final," the confident teenager said. "I am getting better and better on hard courts. I played my best match on a hard court tonight, I think."

Peister will be the next hurdle on the way to the finals for the 17-year-old Becker.

Other quarterfinal match-ups include Wilander against Edberg and Jarryd playing Nystrom.

In third-round action, Wilander beat American Robert Flach 6-1, 6-4; Edberg defeated American Tom Gullikson 6-4, 6-2; Jarryd beat American Marc Flur 7-5, 6-4.

ZURICH, Switzerland (R) — Mary Slaney of the United States broke the world women's mile record Wednesday night at the Zurich Athletics Grand Prix on a day which saw some of the greatest names in the sport stumble to defeat.

Slaney took the mile in the best possible way, beating previous record holder Maricica Puica and Briton Zola Budd to clock four minutes 16.71, well inside the Romanian's 4:17.44 time.

It was the first time the three had run together since the fateful Olympic 3,000 metres final when Slaney fell in a clash with Budd while Puica romped to victory.

Puica also finished inside her previous best mark with 4:17.33 while Budd broke the British record in 4:17.57.

Though two more world record attacks by Steve Cram of Britain and Said Aouita of Morocco just failed, it was the defeats of the likes of Carl Lewis, Sebastian Coe, Marlies Goehr and Marita Koch

which proved more stunning. Lewis marked his return to competition after a two-month pause because of a hamstring injury by finishing an inauspicious fourth in a 100 metre sprint won by Canada's Olympic Bronze medalist Ben Johnson.

Lewis, the superstar of last year's Olympics when he equalled Jesse Owens' record of four gold medals, then decided not to start in the 200 metres.

Coe, Britain's Olympic 1,500 metre champion, trailed Pierre Deleze of Switzerland home as an ecstatic crowd urged on their hero, who clocked 3:31.75 to Coe's 3:32.13.

East German sprinters Goehr and Koch, world champions over 100 and 200 metres respectively, fell to a brilliant double from Valerie Brisco-Hooks.

The American, Olympic triple gold medalist metres, romped home in 11.01 and 21.98 seconds to finish well clear of the East Germans.

There was defeat too for double world champion Jarmila Kratochvilova of Czechoslovakia when Eita Lovin of Romania wriggled her way out of seemingly hopeless position just before the tape to win the women's 800 metres.

Even Alberto Cova of Italy, European Cup winner over 5,000 and 10,000 metres, suffered a rare defeat to Dong Padilla of the United States over the shorter distance.

Aouita and Cram did not disappoint, however, producing some classy middle-distance to



American Mary Slaney-Decker on her way (right) to a new world record over one mile at international track and field meeting in Zurich Wednesday night.

At left is M. Puica of Romania (2nd). Behind is Zola Budd of U.K. (AP wirephoto)

win the mile and 800 metres respectively.

Aouita ran the final lap on his own after pacemaker John Walker of New Zealand dropped out but

still turned in the second best mile time in history to win the three minutes 46.92.

Cram, whose mile record of 3:46.31 is one of three he has set

this summer, was looking for a fourth in the 800 metres.

Though he left his challenge late, he produced a blistering start up the back straight to cruise past Olympic champion Joaquim Cruz of Brazil.

Lonnie Smith downs Costello

NEW YORK (R) — Challenger Lonnie Smith knocked down Billy Costello five times Wednesday night before unleashing a flurry of punches in the eighth round to drop the champion like a sack and win the World Boxing Council (WBC) super-lightweight championship.

It was an upset victory for Smith, 23, who danced and hobbled around fellow-American Costello like a young Muhammad Ali before the referee stopped the fight after two minutes and 31 seconds of the eighth round in the scheduled 12-round bout.

Technically the first knockdown came in the first round, although only Costello's glove touched the canvas.

Both fighters seemed awkward in counter-punching, but Smith was able to land nearly all the heavy punches.

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One sterling	1.4010/20	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3539/44	Canadian dollars
	2.7575/90	West German marks
	3.1040/50	Dutch guilders
	2.2585/600	Swiss francs
	55.87/92	Belgian francs
	8.4225/75	French francs
	1852/1853	Italian lire
	236.48/58	Japanese yen
	8.2350/450	Swedish crowns
	8.1650/750	Norwegian crowns
	10.0025/125	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	333.40/333.90	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices closed mixed with a firmer bias but trading was selective and quiet ahead of the long U.K. holiday weekend, dealers said. At 1430 GMT the FTSE 100 was up 2.5 points at 1,312.2.

Allied Lyons closed 6p down at 228 after oews it will accept Bond Corp's increased offer for Castlemeane Toobey's in which it holds 24.9 per cent. Hanson Trust firmed a net 5p to 215 in further consideration of their takeover bid for the U.S. SCM Corp. Golds were firmer after a mixed morning. North Americans were mixed.

Government bonds closed little changed after the early 1/2 point easier levels but trading was slack.

Distillers rose 9p to 314. Boots 5p to 200 and Thorn EMI 12p to 376 on speculative demand. Banks were mixed, life insurance eased but composites rallied from an easier opening with Guardian Royal unchanged at 751 after 743.

Oils were firm but off the early highs with B.P. 3p better at 548 after 551 and Britoil part-paid 1p higher at 128 after 131. Saxon was unchanged at 545 after withdrawing its agreement to merge with Charterhouse under an offer from Saxon Petroleum.

McQuornale rose 2p to 150 after its proposed acquisition of Clay, down 10p at 138, was referred to the Monopolies Commission. Bell lost 1p to 257 while Guinness was steady at 272.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SAT., AUGUST 24, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day and evening to get into whatever practical and material tasks that you have and to get them into a much better condition by a more organized approach.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Be wise and get into the business world and take care of whatever you have little time for during busy work days.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Go to new places and be with persons who can assist you to get ahead faster and in the future.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) A fine day to study the monetary angles of whatever interests you have in mind for the future.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You can meet objective thinking persons today. It is best you're not so sensitive in order to gain help from them.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Be more practical and get work done that is necessary, and forget about going off on a spree. Be more cooperative with co-workers.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You can express yourself best at home so get busy and make a home more charming. Have a delightful time with them.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Get out to whatever has to be done in public that is difficult to handle during busy work days and take pals along with you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Make out important reports and statements today and show others what your true feelings are. Handle any travel problems.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A fine day for studying books or records and handling other practical affairs that require your attention.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You like to get all the facts of any situation straight and then you can handle it well. Apply this to personal affairs.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Quietly plan how to be more practical in personal affairs and get the right results. Stop making promises to the one you love.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Know what it is that friends want from you and endeavor to please them, and you will be happier.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will do well in business and become an expert in anything of a practical nature. One who is a born organizer and should have courses added to the curriculum that will be helpful in this. Psychology should be added also, since it is important to deal harmoniously with others.

THE Daily Crossword

by James H. Pryor and Phyllis Barrick

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Scorer	1 Highway abbr.
2 Empty show	2 Fourth order
3 City	3 Day's close
4 Metal in sheets	4 Dry past
5 Hunter	5 Pendragon
6 Mouse	6 Religious body
7 Top brass	7 Immigrant
8 Machine part	8 Garment part
9 Reel of film	9 Narrow inlet
10 Cigar	10 Scow's
11 Rocky eminence	11 Like quinine
12 Slide or Pavin	
13 State of "Star Wars"	
14 Star in Aquila	
15 Yield	
16 Kalfaree	
17 Inner court	
18 TNT e.g.	
19 Wild party	
20 Tray	
21 Brain part	
22 Bulbs	
23 Contents of	
24 Fan	
25 Complication	
26 Not too bright	
27 Resolute	
28 Lacking caution	
29 Table lamp	
30 Crime against	
31 Country	
32 Pigeon	
33 Part of word	
34 Brick	
35 A conjunction	
36 Hill or	
37 Goodness	
38 A little warm	
39 A getting out	
40 Egyptian deity	
41 Day's close	
42 Dry past	
43 Double bass	
44 Confined	
45 Prefix	
46 Gull sound	
47 Body of water	
48 Scow's	
49 Like quinine	
50 Within comb.	
51 Niche	
52 Contained	
53 South-of-the	
54 border snack	
55 Roberts	
56 Kickback	
57 The person	
58 Money	
59 Reaster	
60 Like some	
61 Current money	
62 Arthur of	
63 A getting out	
64 Egyptian deity	
65 Day's close	
66 Dry past	
67 Double bass	
68 Confined	
69 Prefix	
70 Gull sound	
71 Body of water	
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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

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49 Like quinine	

Laker ends legal fight

LONDON (R) — Sir Freddie Laker, the champion of cheap air fares, has ended a billion-dollar legal fight with the world's major carriers to clear the way for a government sale of British Airways (B.A.).

British Airways announced Wednesday night that Sir Laker had accepted \$8 million and dropped all claims that B.A. and nine other major carriers plotted to bankrupt his cut-price transatlantic airline which collapsed in 1982.

The deal removes the last obstacle to a \$48 million out-of-court settlement offered by the airlines in response to an anti-trust suit brought by Laker Airways' liquidator three years ago seeking more than \$1 billion in damages.

It will enable Britain's Conservative government to fulfil its long-standing desire to transfer B.A. to private hands, a move considered a key part of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's privatisation programme but repeatedly held up by the litigation.

The sale of B.A., which handles more than 80 per cent of the British international market, is expected to bring in more than £1 billion (\$1.4 billion) on the stock exchange.

UPI-union talks collapse

WASHINGTON (R) — United Press International (UPI) news service said talks with its employees' union collapsed Thursday and each side accused the other of refusing to bargain.

UPI, which is trying to reorganise under federal bankruptcy protection, said the Wire Service Guild refused to discuss proposals for further wage and benefit concessions.

The guild said UPI refused to discuss a plan it said would cut UPI costs by \$500,000 by reducing the number of non-guild managers and employees.

UPI management said in a statement: "It seems futile to continue to meet with a committee, some of whose members have openly advocated the demise of UPI."

The 78-year-old news agency filed under bankruptcy code protection last April 28 to shield it from its creditors.

UPI Chairman Luis Noguera said the company was now considering a number of options, including refiling a request in the bankruptcy court to end the union contract.

Last month UPI asked to void the union contract but bankruptcy Judge George Bason urged the two sides to accept mediation.

They agreed and the union postponed a strike authorisation vote while UPI withdrew its motion to void the contract.

A statement by union president Mr. William Morrissey to employees held out hope for further efforts to resolve the dispute, saying "we still await some kind of recognition that UPI takes our problems seriously and is willing to solve them."

Economic growth in U.S., U.K. slows

BRUSSELS (R) — Economic growth in the United States and Britain has fallen to a "snail's pace" and is significantly lower than in other major industrial countries, a report from a top economic think-tank said Thursday.

The Brussels-based European Conference Board said both countries languished at the bottom of a league table of nine of the world's major industrial nations.

"The boom years are certainly over in the United States. The figures confirm a sluggish trend evident over the past few months," a spokesman for the monitoring organisation told Reuters.

The league table is assembled from leading economic indicators projecting future trends and current performance and is compiled monthly for the organisation by Columbia University's business school in the United States.

The figures released Thursday reveal that Australia continues to outpace all other major industrial countries in the survey, with its leading index climbing at an annual rate of 13 per cent.

Japan and Italy follow with 10 per cent, Canada records eight per cent, West Germany and France five per cent, and Taiwan four per cent, while Britain and the United States languish behind with a mere two and one per cent, respectively.

£5.4 billion (now \$7.6 billion), and compared with \$1.1 billion (\$1.6 billion) in 1983.

Invisible earnings from services pushed the overall balance of payments on current account in 1984 into surplus by \$935 million (\$1.3 billion), though this was well below 1983's \$3.2 billion (\$4.5 billion) and the worst performance since 1979.

Officials said the main factor behind the higher trade deficit was a rise of more than 40 per cent in oil purchases.

A long-running strike in Britain's coalfields boosted Britain's imported energy needs and cut its revenue from coal exports. But Britain still exported more oil in 1984 than it imported.

Trade in food and basic raw materials, which are traditionally in the red, continued to show a deficit. Trade in finished manufactured goods, which fell into deficit for the first time in 1983, worsened further last year.

U.S. durable goods orders drop sharply

In Washington, new orders received by U.S. factories for durable goods fell sharply in July, with the defence industry causing most of the decline, the Commerce Department said Thursday.

The larger-than-expected 2.8 per cent decrease was consistent with economists' views that the economy remained sluggish going into the third quarter of the year.

As a consequence, the Federal Reserve Board, the central bank, has come under pressure to permit lower interest rates to stimulate the economy but it may be reluctant because of the drop in the dollar and the risk of causing high inflation.

But for now inflation remained moderate. The Labour Department reported Thursday an increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) of 0.2 per cent in July, the same as in June.

"The inflation demon has gone," Mr. Robert Wescott, senior economist for Wharton Economics, said.

For the first seven months of 1985, the CPI has risen 3.5 per cent at annual rate, compared with a 4.3 per cent in 1984.

Mr. Wescott said the low inflation gives the federal Reserve Board flexibility to lean on the side of easing credit policy.

The durable goods report followed other economic data showing slow growth in the economy, including declines in corporate profits and homebuilding and only modest gains in industrial production and personal income.

The release on durable goods led to selling of the dollar, which had reached a low for the year against a number of currencies, currency traders said.

They said the dollar declined because of a news report that members of the Federal Reserve Board's policy committee were apprehensive about whether the economy could rebound.

Orders for durable goods, which are expensive items designed to last, fell to \$104 billion last month after rising 3.6 per cent in June.

The report is often revised because of volatility in orders for defence capital goods, which fell 18 per cent.

If orders continue to decline, the unemployment rate could rise after remaining steady at 7.3 per cent for six months, Mr. David Wysz, senior economist at Data Resources Inc., said.

The number of people applying for unemployment benefits rose to 365,000, the Labour Department said in the latest weekly report.

Mr. Wysz said defence cutbacks in next year's budget could lead to more large declines in durable goods orders.

"My guess means a bad-looking fourth quarter that could lead to a rise in unemployment," he said.

Intelsat may sell or lease excess capacity

WASHINGTON (R) — Intelsat, the multinational satellite communications consortium, is considering selling or leasing excess capacity on its satellites for use by member nations, consortium officials said Thursday.

The officials said the proposal to sell or lease the excess to its 110-member countries is to be considered by the Intelsat board which meets on Sept. 5 in Washington.

They said the agency's 15 satellites have excess transponder capacity because of earlier overly-optimistic estimates of international traffic growth by user nations.

But the officials said the excess was "a relatively small proportion of the total."

The satellites' transponders are receiving and sending units.

Intelsat (International Telecommunications Satellite Organization) is a non-profit cooperative carrying about two-thirds of the world's telephone communications, in addition to television and data transmissions.

The chief contributor with 23 per cent interest is the U.S. Communications Satellite Corporation (Comsat).

Intelsat's Assembly of Parties — its signatory countries — asked Intelsat three years ago to study

uses of excess capacity, and the issue will be considered when the assembly meets in October in Washington.

The proposal raised some concern by at least one potential competitor, the Panamerican Satellite Cooperation.

Panamerican President Fred Landman called the Intelsat move "predatory" because Intelsat would sell the space at below cost and cut into the business of private satellite firms trying to provide foreign countries with their own domestic communications networks.

But Intelsat said in a statement that sales or leases would be made

on "cost-based principles."

Panamerican is to launch a satellite next July to link the United States with Latin American countries and also provide domestic services within Latin countries.

Mr. Landman said by telephone from his New York office that "if they are concerned about excess capacity why don't they reduce rates for their existing customers?"

An Intelsat spokesperson said agency had recently cut rates by 15 per cent.

Panamerican was one of three U.S. firms given permission by the U.S. Federal Communications

Commission on July 25 to launch satellites to compete with Intelsat.

Previously Intelsat was the sole U.S. firm authorised to provide international satellite communications services, but the Reagan administration recently decided that competition would spur technological breakthroughs and not harm Intelsat financially.

The two other U.S. satellite firms approved, RCA American and the other U.S. satellite firms approved, RCA American Communications and International Satellite Incorporated, plan to provide service to Western Europe and Africa.

Ford intends to axe 10,000 jobs by 1990

DETROIT (R) — The Ford Motor Company intends to eliminate almost 10,000 U.S. salaried staff positions in the next five years in a drive to reduce costs and improve efficiency, company officials said Thursday.

Ford, the world's second largest car manufacturer behind General Motors, plans reductions of 20 per cent in its automotive and diversified products operations, which together have almost 48,000 white-collar employees, they said.

Another 20,000 employees in financial, aerospace and electronics operations are not likely to be included in the outback programme, according to spokesmen.

The cuts will begin soon at Ford's River Rouge steel and tractor operations, both of which have been under financial strains.

Ford officials said the company will single out some mid-level management employees for voluntary termination, which will be carried out by offering lump-sum cash payments based on years of service. Job placement assistance and extended health-care benefits will be included in the package.

The company, Ford officials said, hopes to achieve its goals through early retirements and voluntary terminations but some layoffs may still be needed.

Ford enjoyed profits of \$2.9 billion last year, its second consecutive year of record profitability after losing \$3.2 billion in the 1980-82 period.

The company's earnings have remained healthy this year, but company executives have said they are continuing efforts to keep expenses under control in planning for the future.

Arab countries are focusing on manufacturing industries

VIENNA (OPECNA) — The current oil market situation has resulted in Arab countries focusing their efforts on developing their manufacturing and agricultural industries, according to Prof. Issam Al Zaim, assistant secretary-general of the Association of Third World Economists.

Addressing a meeting at the Vienna Institute for Development, Prof. Al Zaim, who is also senior industrial development officer at UNIDO, said these industries had been grossly neglected in the past two decades.

"Between 1974 and 1983 many small oil exporting countries regressed in manufacturing in order to increase primary production and take advantage of the increasing oil demand," he said.

"But when you exert all your efforts into developing a depletable resource such as oil, at the expense of other vital industries, you could soon find yourself without income," he added.

He said the entire world economy this century had been shaped, until recently, by oil, because it could be obtained at very cheap prices.

But when OPEC decided in 1973 to determine its own prices, the relationship between oil and other energy sources changed.

The rise in oil prices resulted in industrialised countries successfully developing energy saving measures between 1975 and 1982.

"But these schemes have now been practically exhausted, so I think that as the economic recovery takes hold, even the slightest increase in oil demand will make a dramatic impact," he said.

He said the Arab agriculture-dominated economies such as Syria, Jordan, Egypt and Tunisia, have always been integrated, unlike the oil dominated economies which have relied heavily on foreign assistance for machinery, equipment and catalysts.

Today however, the alternative to Arab integration in the oil dominated states, is going into "joint ventures."

Prof. Al Zaim said Saudi Arabia was the leading Arab nation involved in joint ventures with transnational companies.

"This was a real breakthrough in the region in the late 1970s, and today of the three million tons of ethylene and ethylene products produced in the area, more than 70 per cent comes from Saudi Arabia," he said.

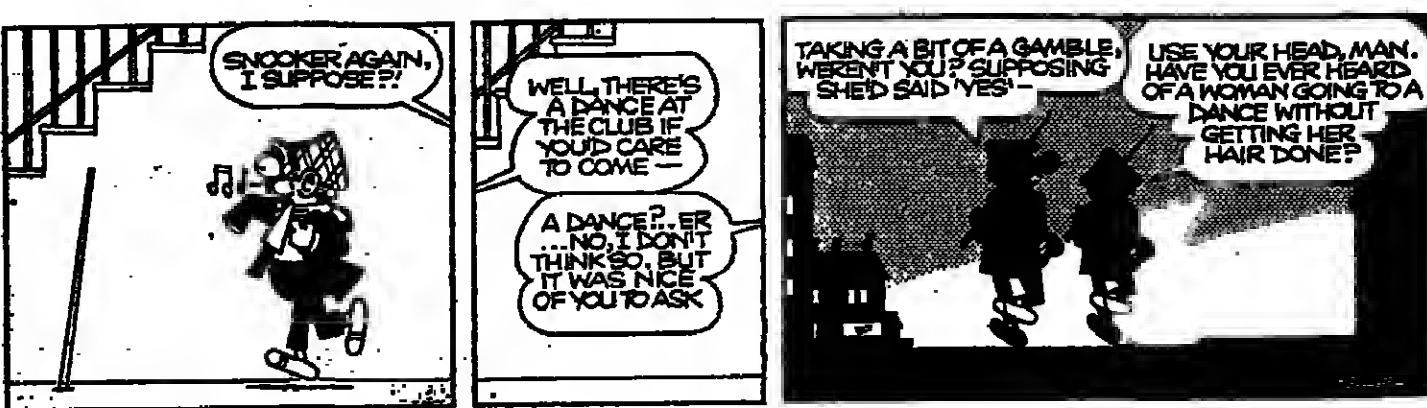
Peanuts



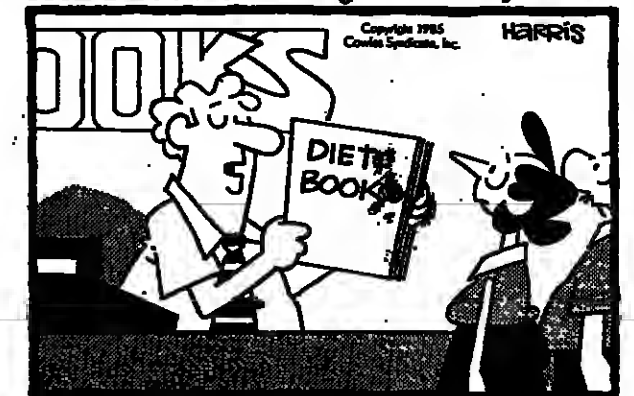
Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF



JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NOYME

LOXET

FILTUP

ZIRDAL

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: JUST AN

Yesterday's Jumble: ONION SOGGY VASSAL NEWEST

Answer: What a philosopher thinks the world does—OWES HIM A LOVING

Reagan defends 'Star Wars' research, Nicaragua policy

LOS ANGELES (R) — President Reagan has said his "Star Wars" anti-missile programme offered mankind a way out of the nuclear dilemma and the United States would press ahead with research despite objections from the Soviet Union.

He also defended his policies in Central America, saying his administration had "turned around a desperate situation" in the past four-and-a-half years.

Speaking at a Republican Party fund-raising function, his first public appearance since leaving Washington on Aug. 11 for a three-week holiday, Mr. Reagan touched on the issues that would confront his administration and Congress this autumn.

On "Star Wars" — formally called Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) — he said: "We are moving forward with research on a project that offers us a way out of the nuclear dilemma that has confounded mankind for four decades."

The SDI research programme to find a way to shoot down intercontinental missiles shortly after their launch has been a sticking point in U.S.-Soviet arms control talks in Geneva.

Moscow has linked a halt in the research to any progress in lim-

iting strategic or intermediate-range missiles.

"We keep hearing from some self-declared experts that our SDI concept is unfeasible and a waste of money. Well, if that's true, why are the Soviets so upset about it?" Mr. Reagan said.

"As a matter of fact, why are they investing so many rubles of their own in the same technologies?"

Mr. Reagan said his Central America policy of containing what he perceives as the spread of Communism had shown that the United States had not wavered from its commitment "to do what is necessary to keep our country safe and to secure the blessings of liberty."

"We've turned around a desperate situation ... when we first got to Washington the question on everyone's lips was will El Salvador fall to the Communists?"

"Today the question is will democracy win in Nicaragua and

tomorrow the question will be how soon?"

Mr. Reagan has said he seeks the replacement of the Sandinista government in Nicaragua "in its present form" but has denied the United States is actively engaged in trying to overthrow it through support of the rebel movement in the Central American country.

"We have held firm. We will continue to do what needs to be done to protect our country's security and help the people of Central America build free, prosperous and democratic countries," he said.

Meanwhile the U.S. army said Thursday the United States will cut back research on a key project in the "Star Wars" programme because of a projected \$100-million cost overrun.

Boeing aerospace was awarded a \$289.4-million contract last year for work on an airborne infra-red sensor which might detect the difference between real and decoy nuclear warheads during an attack.

But Boeing, which signed two subcontracts for parallel research on the sensor, now estimates that the project's cost could go up by \$100 million, the army said.

The army and officials of Pre-

sident Reagan's SDI, announced Thursday that most of the optical sensor work being done by one subcontractor, Aerojet Electro-Systems, will be terminated.

But Hughes Aircraft, a second subcontractor, will continue working on the device and the Honeywell Company will continue work on data processing, the announcement said.

"Technology is more easily attainable with Hughes," a Defence Department official said.

Thursday's action will trim the scope of the effort, but will not halt work on trying to develop a small, infra-red sensor mounted in aircraft to monitor attacking nuclear warheads.

Experts have said that hundreds of nuclear warheads, including decoys, might be launched in a nuclear war and that it might be essential to determine which ones were real in any attempt to destroy them in flight.

A separate SDI effort is also underway to mount sensors in satellites.

Thursday's announcement said that both Boeing and its subcontractors had underestimated the technical difficulty and potential costs of the project.



CRASHED AIRTOURS FLIGHT 328: Firemen take off from the airport. The flight KT 328 was at Manchester Airport, Thursday at the crash site of the British Airtoours Boeing 737 which caught fire on

U.S. 'has evidence' to support 'spydust' charge against Soviets

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. officials Friday stood by their claims that the Soviet Union was using a mysterious chemical which might cause cancer to track U.S. diplomats in Moscow and denied the claims were politically motivated.

State Department spokesman Charles Redman said the U.S. charge was "perfectly true, the evidence is there". But he would not say what the evidence was.

Moscow has denied the charge that it was using a powder, dubbed "spydust", so that KGB agents could trace U.S. diplomats' meetings with Soviet citizens.

Washington filed a formal diplomatic protest over the alleged incidents, demanding an immediate halt to the practice. Mos-

cow countered in a formal protest by accusing Washington of trying to "poison the atmosphere" of U.S.-Soviet relations.

Soviet officials said the charge appeared to be part of U.S. manoeuvring before the summit meeting between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Geneva in November.

The Soviet protest said Washington wanted to "prepare the ground for another slander campaign against the Soviet Union, poison the atmosphere ... and foment enmity toward the Soviet people".

The U.S. chemical dust charge was Washington's third anti-Soviet challenge this week. Earlier it announced it would

conduct an anti-satellite weapons test despite Soviet objections and President Reagan's National Security Adviser, Robert McFarlane, said Soviet attitudes made prospects poor for improving U.S.-Soviet relations.

But at the State Department, Mr. Redman denied the "spydust" charge was part of a U.S. anti-Soviet campaign.

He said the public charge was made this week because enough evidence had accumulated that the U.S. embassy staff had to be warned of a cancer hazard.

The cancer risk was disputed. A spokesman for the American Chemical Society said it was not likely that anyone could get cancer by touching the powder.

U.S. policy faces C. American criticism

CARTAGENA, Colombia (R) — Criticism of U.S. pressures on left-wing Nicaragua will feature strongly at an eight-nation meeting on Central America's tensions here Saturday, diplomatic sources said.

Peru's new president Alan Garcia has condemned President Reagan's view of Nicaragua as a threat to the area's stability and Mexican Foreign Minister Bernardo Sepulveda said last Tuesday: "It would be illusory to suppose the problems of the region could be solved by the removal of one government."

The two-day weekend meeting of foreign ministers aims to give a boost to the stalled peace efforts of the Contadora Group, formed in 1983 by Mexico, Panama, Colombia and Venezuela.

The new democracies of Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Peru have made up a support group to press for agreements among Central America's conflicting nations and this will be their first formal meeting with the Contadora four.

Western and Central American

diplomatic sources said many of the countries involved here see U.S. pressure on Nicaragua, including financial support for anti-government guerrillas, as interference and a destabilising factor.

Washington and its Central American allies see Nicaragua as the destabilising factor — a source of Communist subversion.

The sharp divisions between Nicaragua and its neighbours have stalled Contadora's efforts to draw up a peace treaty.

Many issues have been resolved but the central problem of the military balance was left until last and has proved to be the toughest.

The United States and its allies El Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rica see Nicaragua's Soviet-supplied military build-up as a threat to the area.

Nicaragua says it needs the troops and the weapons to defend its revolution against the combined might of its neighbours and the United States.

Contadora has not been able to find a formula for guaranteed and

simultaneous arms reductions.

At the last Contadora meeting, held in Panama in June, Nicaragua walked out saying the agenda for a treaty could not be discussed until existing tensions were eased.

Colombian Foreign Ministry spokesman Alvaro Garcia told reporters the meeting aimed to seek to bring the countries of Central America closer together and to seek mediation.

The ministers are due to go through the Contadora draft treaty and various working papers as well, he added.

But Central American, Contadora and Western diplomatic sources said the meeting would provide only moral support for the Contadora group and was unlikely to produce a formula for peace acceptable to all parties.

Brazil and Uruguay have already said they would join any peace-keeping force if such an idea were formally proposed. All the support countries have grave economic and political problems of their own.

Police kill 6, injure 20 in S. African protests

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Police firing shotguns and rubber bullets battled stone-throwing black protesters near a small white town Friday in northern Cape province, killing six and wounding 20, authorities said.

Residents of Soweto, near Johannesburg, said the army for the second day in a row arrested youngsters who were on the streets, boycotting classes. Hundreds of parents, aided by clergymen, gathered at a main police station to locate their children, the residents said.

The Star newspaper reported without attribution that police Friday were holding "about 300" youngsters from Thursday's operation. Police refused to say how many they held.

In Cape Town, the Reverend Allan Boesak, a leading opponent of apartheid, announced a mass march Wednesday to the gates of Pollsmoor Prison, to demand the freeing of Nelson Mandela, the leader of South Africa's 24 million blacks.

Mandela, imprisoned for life since 1964 after being convicted of planning sabotage, is head of the African National Congress (ANC), the main guerrilla organisation fighting the white government.

Because security law can be applied to ban most any kind of protest against the government, Rev. Boesak refused to say where the march would start.

"We are confident that the march will be a peaceful, non-violent and disciplined demonstration, and we call on the authorities not to provoke our people with an armed presence," Rev. Boesak said.

The fighting that killed the six blacks appeared to be one of the bloodiest confrontations in weeks as South Africa heads toward its second year of anti-apartheid protests that has killed more than 600 people, almost all of them black.

Japan witnesses 5th aircraft trouble in 2 days

TOKYO (AP) — A Japan Air Lines DC-10 bound for Seoul from Osaka developed engine trouble shortly before takeoff Friday in the fifth incident on aircraft in Japan in two days.

JAL spokeswoman Tomiko Yoshizawa said the jet, with 260 passengers aboard, was taxiing down the runway at a speed of 60 knots (69 mph-110 kph) when an "engine blade" blew off the engine and the pilot stopped the plane.

Kyodo News Service reported that there was a loud noise and the emission of flames and black smoke from the engine, but Ms. Yoshizawa could not immediately confirm the report.

Kyodo also said there was considerable commotion within the cabin among startled passengers. There were no reported injuries.

On Thursday night, a JAL 747 Jumbo jet, a sister plane to the one that crashed on Aug. 12, landed at Osaka with a cockpit warning light indicating rudder problems. Nearly two hours later, an all Nippon Airways Boeing 737 made a one-engine emergency landing there because of an oil leak. Airline and Transport Ministry officials said.

In two other incidents on Thursday, the Transport Ministry reported, an Iran Air 747 returned to new Tokyo International Airport at Narita after a warning light indicated a fire in a cargo hold, and an Air India 747 inbound from Hong Kong landed there with one of its four engines shut down because of overheating, according to Yasuhiro Koba, of the ministry's Aviation Bureau. There were 347 people aboard the Iranian plane and 394 on the Air India plane.

There were no injuries in any of the incidents, officials said. Japan Air Lines (JAL) said the rudder problem involved a 747SR, the same specially designed model as the one that crashed into a mountain ridge on Aug. 12, killing all but four of the 524 people on board.

Vietnamese aide reports progress on Kampuchea

JAKARTA (R) — Non-Communist South East Asian countries and Indonesian nations have made significant progress towards finding a political settlement in Kampuchea, Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach said.

Speaking at a press conference after his talks Thursday with his Indonesian counterpart, Mochtar Kusumaatmadja, Mr. Thach said they found much common ground when they compared the joint Indochina proposals with those of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

"The progress was very encouraging," he said.

Neither of the two ministers elaborated on what progress or action had been made and diplomats were sceptical about the result of the meeting.

"It was much ado about nothing," one senior South East Asian diplomat commented.

Mr. Thach, who said he was in Jakarta representing Laos and the

Hanoi-backed Phnom Penh government of Heng Samrin, said matters were too sensitive to reveal the results of the meeting at this stage.

Mr. Mochtar said the progress was not very substantial because details remained to be worked out.

But Hanoi's pledge to completely pull its troops out of Kampuchea by 1990 had improved the atmosphere, he said. "We only differ on the conditions of withdrawal now," he added.

Mr. Thach stressed that the 1990 withdrawal deadline was no longer conditional on the elimination of the Peking-backed Khmer Rouge guerrillas because the Heng Samrin government would be able to defend itself.

Mr. Mochtar said he would consult his counterparts in ASEAN before determining whether a solution was any nearer now. The members of ASEAN are Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines and Brunei.

Gandhi: Punjab polls to go ahead

CHANDIGARH, India (R) — Punjab state's police chief said Friday that even with thousands of extra security men the safety of Sikh candidates could not be guaranteed in state elections next month.

But Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was cheered by both sides of parliament when he said that the government decided to go ahead with the polls because this was the only way to answer the brute force of Sikh extremists.

Speaking four days after extremists murdered Harchand Singh Longowal, head of the main Sikh political party, the Akali Dal, Mr. Gandhi said it did not matter who won the September 25 election as long as democracy was not extinguished.

"A democratic election is the people's answer to the brute force employed by a small section to

impose their will on the masses," Mr. Gandhi told the Lok Sabha or lower house.

In Punjab's capital Chandigarh, state Director General of Police Kripal Singh Dhillon said he had asked for 10,000 extra men to reinforce the state's 54,000 policemen and paramilitary forces in providing security for the election.

But Dhillon told Reuters that restraints on security forces entering Sikh temples meant the safety of Sikh candidates could not be guaranteed.

"There is really no foolproof protection in this state for Sikh candidates who often hold meetings in their Gurdwaras (Sikh temples) where there are constraints on us," he said.

Dhillon said Mr. Longowal, who was shot dead in a temple, refused to allow police to frisk people attending his meetings and

his bodyguards were only allowed to carry weapons which could be hidden under their clothes.

"Unless the Sikh politicians allow us these liberties in their temples we cannot ensure effective protection," he said.

Shiva Swaroop, adviser on law and order to Governor Arjun Singh, who rules the state under presidential law, agreed that security forces could not avert all attacks by extremists.

"I certainly foresee incidents of extremist attacks on candidates," Mr. Swaroop told reporters.

Mr. Longowal, who signed a peace agreement with Mr. Gandhi last month, wanted the polls held in February or March to allow tempers to cool in the state.

Mr. Gandhi said India valued democratic rights and freedom above all else and would not bow down to terrorism.

Sri Lankan team arrives in New Delhi

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — A Sri Lankan government delegation arrived here Friday for talks with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on ways to revive collapsed negotiations with Tamil separatist guerrillas.

The group, headed by Hector W. Jayewardene, came here after peace talks held in Bhitani collapsed over a resurgence of violence in Sri Lanka and irreconcilable negotiating positions.

Mr. Gandhi has invited the rival negotiators to the Indian capital in hopes of exerting his personal influence and persuading the two sides to resume the dialogue.

Sri Lankan embassy officials

said Mr. Jayewardene, brother of the island nation's President Junius R. Jayewardene, might discuss a new set of proposals granting greater autonomy to Tamils when he meets Mr. Gandhi.

The officials declined to give details of the proposals, but Indian news reports said the Sri Lankan government might propose the formation of a special Tamil linguistic region in the Tamil-dominated areas in the country's north and east and give the Tamils power to enforce regional law and order.

Mr. Gandhi is likely to hold separate discussions with Tamil rebel leaders on Saturday, according to news reports.

Meanwhile a Sri Lankan minister told parliament Friday Tamil guerrillas are preparing to launch a major offensive. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Vincent Perera gave the warning following the collapse of talks in Bhitani's capital of Thimpu aimed at ending the bloody conflict between majority Sinhalese and minority Tamils.

Urging parliament to approve a presidential order extending a nationwide state of emergency for a further month, Mr. Perera said 'Colombo was forced to keep security forces on alert against any "sudden and ruthless attacks" by guerrillas.

Survivors of U.K. plane crash report 'mass panic'

MANCHESTER, England (R) — Survivors of Thursday's British Airtoours plane said there was pandemonium as passengers tripped over one another to escape the burning aircraft.

Mike Mather, 21, said he heard a loud bang as the Boeing 737 was about to take off.

"After the bang, the stewards told us to keep down until the plane stopped but there was mass panic," he said.

"Smoke was coming down the roof and flames were coming in from over the wing. I could hardly breathe and anyone who was left after me would be dead," he added.

Keith Middleton, 21, said passengers ignored the pleas of stewards to stay calm.

"Everyone was screaming and shouting. They were diving out of their seats and everyone was pushing," he said.

Both men said they were saved by aircraft staff who manhandled them into escape chutes.

Middleton, whose girlfriend also escaped, said flames and black smoke engulfed the inside of the plane within seconds.

"I couldn't breathe. It was just a black, smoke-filled aeroplane," he said.

He described the aircraft's nar-

row aisle filled with jostling passengers, desperately trying to escape the flames.

"People were falling on the floor and getting trampled on. The plane was just written off. There was nothing left of it."

Mather said many passengers were too far from the escape chutes to stand any chance of reaching them before being overcome by smoke and flames.

"There were people inside that plane who had no chance of getting out," he said.

Both men spoke to reporters in hospital where they were treated for shock. Most survivors were too dazed and distressed to describe their experience.

Many sat weeping, others just stared blankly into space, still clutching plastic carrier-bags filled with duty-free goods from the airport shop.

Victims were taken to a mark eshiff mortuary at the airport. A small number of relatives rushed to the airport and were comforted by a Catholic priest as they waited anxiously.

The priest, Arthur Kegan, said, he had administered last rites "as far as possible" to the victims.

The Boeing 737 normally takes 115 passengers. It had been modified by the charter company to

seat 130.

The crash of the Boeing 737 aircraft cast fresh doubt on a popular belief among airline travellers that it's safest to sit at the back of a plane.

After the August 12 Japanese Boeing 747 disaster, in which all four survivors of the 524 people on board were sitting at the rear, airline officials reported a big jump in the number of passengers requesting seats at the back.

All 29 survivors of Delta Airlines Lockheed, which crashed this month at Dallas-Fort Worth killing 134 people, were also sitting at the back.

In Thursday's disaster at Manchester, North England, the safest place to be was at the front or in the middle of the aircraft. Nearly all those who died appeared to have succumbed to fumes and flames in the rear section.

Air safety experts disagree about the best place to sit.

"Statistically, if you went through all the accidents for many years, you might find that the tail area is safer," Freddie Yetman, technical secretary of the British Airline Pilots Association told Reuters.

"But every crash is different. What could be the best place to sit in one disaster may turn out to be

fatal in another. It's a matter of chance," he said.

Yetman said sitting at the back was definitely safer if the plane crashed nose first, as in the Japanese disaster.

In addition, since an airliner's fuel is often stored in or near the wings, fires ignited after a nose-first crash would consume the front first.

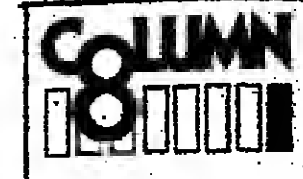
U.S. officials, questioned after the Japanese airlines crash, said they had no statistics to indicate that it was safer to sit at the back.

Robert Buckhorn, spokesman for the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board, suggested that a passenger's best bet might be to position himself near an exit.

Mr. Yetman said that even that can prove fatal. Exits are often blocked by dislodged seats and luggage following a crash.

He said a British military study had come up with the idea of positioning passenger seats so that they faced the rear.

"The idea was that the backs of the seats would protect the passenger, absorbing part of the impact of a nose-first crash. But if the seats broke away, as often happens, it would make no difference," he said.



Peanuts get prison warden in trouble

ROME, Georgia (AP) — Six rows of peanuts growing in a garden at the Floyd County Correctional Institution proved to be trouble for prison Warden J.W. Scott. Scott was informed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture this week that he must report his "peanut crop" or face a possible fine of 38 cents per pound. The federal government learned the prison was growing peanuts in its 7-acre (3 hectare) garden when a local newspaper published an article about the garden last weekend. Scott said he got a letter informing him that, because peanuts are a government-regulated crop, farmers planting more than one-fifth of an acre (one-tenth of a hectare) in peanuts must file a report. The letter said failure to comply could subject the prison to a fine of 38 cents per pound (83 cents per kilo) of peanuts harvested.

Gunmen hit hotel jewelry shop in Beverly Hills

BEVERLY HILLS, California (R) — Four bandits walked into a posh hotel favoured by celebrities, fired an Uzi machinegun burst, then fled with as much as \$250,000 worth of jewels, police reported. "They wore no obvious makeup or disguises. It was quite a deal, right in the middle of the Beverly Wilshire, a very exclusive hotel. Police Lieutenant William Hunt said. He said two bursts were fired, the first into a wall as the gunmen ordered six people in the lobby to the ground, and the other as the four fled in a stolen white Cadillac. As two of the gunmen watched the people in the lobby, their partners entered Schwartz's Jewellers, smashed heavy-glass display cases and scooped out the gems. "We're still waiting to get the information on the exact amount of the loss," said L. Hunt, adding that there was a report the booty was in the \$250,000 range.

Coca-Cola refuses to reveal formula

ATLANTA, Georgia (R) — The Coca-Cola Company has never disclosed its soft drink formulas "and that policy will not change" regardless of a U.S. district court order, a company spokesman has said. Judge Murray Schwartz of the U.S. district court in Wilmington, Delaware, recently ordered that the company disclose the secret formulas of several Coca-Cola products including its Coca-Cola brand soft drinks. The order arose from a lawsuit brought against the company in 1983 by a group of Coca-Cola bottlers who alleged the syrup used in diet coke was over-priced. A Coca-Cola spokesman said the bottlers who are suing "represent only 3-1/2 per cent of the total diet coke sales in the U.S."

Lone Irishman crosses Atlantic in rubber dinghy

DUNMORE EAST, Ireland (R) — An Irish journalist has become the first person to cross the Atlantic in a rubber dinghy, completing a 29-day solo voyage. Enda O'Coinneen, 30, who set out from St. John's, Newfoundland on July 25, sailed into his Irish coastal resort in his five-metre craft, the Kilcullen. Shortly after he began the trip, the dinghy overturned in heavy seas close to Loughs, sweeping away his charts and petrol supplies and damaging his radio transmitter batteries. Until he received fuel for his outboard motor engine from a passing merchant ship Wednesday, O'Coinneen had been without radio contact since speaking with rescue services when more than 1,000 miles from Ireland.

Chinese get acquainted with Boy George

PEKING (R) — Peking citizens have been flocking to the first exhibition staged in China by Western record companies, giving them the opportunity to enjoy and buy the music of such artists as Beethoven and Boy George. Most of the music tapes on display in the Peking exhibition centre this week are budget classical music, but pop, both the West and from Hong Kong, attracted most attention from the predominantly young visitors. "We don't expect to sell very many tapes this time, but there's a lot of interest when we show music videos," said David Tang, representative of Virgin Records, which has a large stable of artists including Boy George and Julian Lennon.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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FORKED BY MORTON

Both vulnerable, South deals.

NORTH

♠ K 5
♥ Q 10 9
♦ K 5 4
♣ Q 10 9 5 4

EAST

♠ 8 3
♥ 8 3
♦ K 6 5 4
♣ Q 10 9 8 7 6 5 4

SOUTH

♠ A Q J 10 6 5
♥ A 9 8
♦ 7
♣ J 8 3

The bidding:

South West North East
1 ♠ 2 ♠ NT Pass
4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Ace of ♠.

Henry VII's Chancellor of the Exchequer, Cardinal Morton, had a simple formula for taxing London's merchants. If they lived lavishly, they were obviously making pots of money and could afford high taxes. But they could not escape Morton's fork by living frugally, for then he claimed that they had to have substantial savings, and he taxed them as such.

In bridge, a Morton's Fork Coup denotes a line of play whereby a